



Charity effort aids Rest Bay lifeguards
(See details on page 3).

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Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2013

**Jobs boost for
Bridgend as Ford
invests £24m**
(See page 3)



**Wildmill family
saved after
1am house fire**
(see page 5)

GETTING IN GEAR FOR A CLASSIC ENCOUNTER AT SARN!



Members of the South Wales Classic Car Club brought their vintage vehicles to town last weekend. For details, and for more photographs by GLYN EVANS, see page 5.

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TREASURER (aged 77) STOLE £90,000 FROM PORTHCawl FREE MASONS' CARE HOME

(Read the full story on page 7)



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*Offer open to breeding kennels and individuals who are registered with Dogs Trust. Offer subject to availability and discretion of the kennels. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently offer microchipping services. For complete details, see Dogs Trust website. Dogs Trust is a registered charity number 207929 and a registered limited company number 02006196. This offer only relates to breeding kennels over 12 weeks old. The Trustee: Dogs Trust, 11 Stanley Street, London, EC1V 4HQ. Registered Charity Number: 207929 and 90008160.



MP hands over cheque to help rebuilding of Hope!

BRIDGEND MP
Madeleine Moon recently returned to Hope Church in Porthcawl – to see how building work was going – and to pass on another cheque, received from completing parliamentary questionnaires.

She met with secretary Lana Morgan and Paul Marshallsea, project manager, who were delighted to receive the donation to the project and gave her a tour to see how work has progressed over the past few months.

Afterwards the MP Madeleine said: "A new slate roof on the building has made it safe and secure from the elements and it has begun to feel loved and cared for again.

"There is still much more work to be done inside and out, but funding applications have been sent to organisations who may be able to help financially and their responses are awaited cautiously



ABOVE: The Bridgend MP hands over her cheque.

by the team.

"Some renovation work has begun inside on the small school room near the kitchen which means they will eventually be able to hold coffee mornings and also provide hot meals midweek for pensioners.

"There is still a long way to go, but Lana and Paul have enormous

amounts of energy and enthusiasm to continue working hard on this project."

If you can help in anyway, volunteering or donations, please contact Lana Morgan by email: hopecon@live.co.uk or write to The Secretary, 319 New Road, Newton Porthcawl CF36 5PH or telephone: 07840162316

CALL TO HELP OVER-50s BACK INTO EMPLOYMENT

A CHARITY which supports older people in the jobs market, is calling for the Welsh Government to do more to help over-50s in Bridgend county borough.

PRIME Cymru, the charity established to assist people who are over 50 to become and remain economically active has called upon the Welsh Government to take urgent action to address the "hidden generation" of people over 50 who are jobless

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

in Wales.

The charity points out that, in 2007, the One Wales policy document had a target of an 80 per cent employment level for the Welsh economy. The employment rate for people between 50 and state pension age in Bridgend is 63 per cent.

PRIME Cymru says that there are currently over 10,000 older people who are jobless in Bridgend county borough. Older jobseekers

are twice as likely to still be out of work after 12 months than any other group.

David Pugh, chief executive of PRIME Cymru, said: "We welcome the slow but steady increase in older workers in employment.

"However, if the Welsh Government had reached its 80 per cent target, a further 4,520 older workers would be employed in the county borough.

"Without major investment and support for older workers to become and remain economically active, the Welsh Government will never reach its target."

"We are losing the skills experience and expertise of a generation. People not working in their 50s are likely to be the poor and unhealthy pensioners of the future."

"While we fully support the measures being introduced to help younger jobseekers, older people need and deserve specialist tailored support to maximise their potential."

"Although there has been a Strategy for

Older People for 10 years, there has been no specific programme, action plan or strategy to reduce the numbers of older jobless people in Wales."

He said that if Wales had the same employment rate for older workers as the UK, there would be another 24,000 people in employment. This would equate to about an extra 1,000 in work in Bridgend county borough.

Mr Pugh continued: "PRIME has worked one-to-one support, is delivered by Chwarae Teg, the women's economic development body for Wales.

It is part of Chwarae Teg's £12.5m European Social Fund and Welsh Government-funded Agile Nation project which supports the progression of women in the workplace.

"In that project, 100 per cent of participants who completed the programme have progressed into employment.

"These successful

pilots need to be developed and these opportunities should be available in Bridgend and throughout Wales."

Anyone who would like to become a mentor or would like assistance can contact PRIME Cymru free on 0800 5874085 or at www.primecymru.co.uk

Women are urged to unlock their career potential

WOMEN living in the Bridgend area are being offered the chance to unlock their "career potential" – through a special programme designed to "boost their confidence and develop new management skills".

The free 'Ascent' programme, which provides recognised management training and tailored one-to-one support, is delivered by Chwarae Teg, the women's economic development body for Wales.

It is part of Chwarae Teg's £12.5m European Social Fund and Welsh Government-funded Agile Nation project which supports the progression of women in the workplace.

They are being urged to make the most of this fully-funded support by signing up for the next workshop, which starts in Bridgend on April 30.

A spokesperson explained that Ascent enables female employees to develop their team-leading and management skills and gain an accredited Institute of leadership and management

"I'm now in the process of applying for a management role."

Call 01443 824410 for details.

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Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

COUNTING THE FUNERAL COSTS

JUST a few random thoughts on Mrs Thatcher's funeral... Mr Attlee may have had a funeral ceremony at the Temple church with 150 mourners, but there is a film on the internet showing his ashes being interred in a Westminster Abbey full of people.

The commentary does not say whether his family paid for that as well.

It is not clear how accurate is the £10 mil-

lion estimate for the cost of Mrs Thatcher's funeral – nor how much of this money would have been spent anyway.

As far as I can understand it, £10 million is the amount we give to the EU every six hours or so.

If we are concerned that the money could have been spent on the NHS, we might bear in mind the £12 billion (enough for 1,200 prime ministers) which was spent on an NHS computer system that never worked and had to be scrapped.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

Red kite sightings

IN relation to Mr Stuart Yendle's question in last week's GEM regarding the sighting of kites, I can confirm to him that at 3.15pm on Wednesday, April 17, I observed a red kite flying over the field on the south side of the A48 at the top of Crack Hill, making its way towards Colwinston.

At the time it was being mobbed by a crowd. Unfortunately, no camera was available, but they are about in the Vale!

Glyn Morgan, Llanwit Major.

Red kite in Cowbridge

WITH reference to the recent correspondence in The GEM, I can confirm that a Red Kite has been seen in Cowbridge!

I saw one flying over the 'three fields' towards Mount Ida just before the Easter weekend. I had a superb view and the signature fork tail was clearly visible from my window – as our

house backs onto the fields.

Naturally, I was both delighted and surprised to see one so close and was pleased to read Stuart Yendle's letter in The GEM, confirming that there is at least one Red Kite in the Vale!

Unfortunately, I didn't have my camera at the ready – but I was 100 per cent certain it was a Red Kite.

Rowena Harbour, Cowbridge.

Wind of change!

IS it possible that all these wind turbines have pushed Britain further north towards the Arctic, like a giant hovercraft, and are they also responsible for blowing the warm southerly jet stream away and giving us this long winter?

(Well, I only asked!)

BECKON TO SPRING

As winter's icy grip slowly lets go, The sun and rain see off the ice and snow, Nature's work begins in the cold damp earth, And green shoots pierce the soggy turf, Woodlands and meadows, come to life once more,

With floral carpets spread on nature's floor, Birds sing in the trees and animals play, The shorter night and longer day, Spring has come, it's here at last,

The year is young once more and winter past.

Colin Dudley, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
25 Thur	06.44	9.7	19.05	9.9
26 Fri	07.26	10.1	19.51	10.2
27 Sat	08.11	10.3	20.33	10.3
28 Sun	08.54	10.1	21.17	10.1
29 Mon	09.41	9.9	22.04	9.8
30 Tues	10.27	9.5	22.51	9.3
01 Wed	11.19	8.9	23.46	8.8
02 Thur			12.19	8.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

THE April meeting of Sker WI was held recently at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when president Nina Charlesworth welcomed members.

The speaker for the evening was Vernon Edwards, who gave a very informative talk on 'Native American Indians' and was dressed in traditional costume.

The original Indians came south from Siberia, and Mr Edwards described how the tribes lived and survived by moving from place to place.

There were many different tribes and the Sioux Indians lived mainly on the plains. It

was only when the Spanish arrived in America that the Indians finally had horses.

Within a family, the girls were brought up by the women and likewise the boys by the men.

When it came to marriage the father accepted the highest bid for his daughter.

The Indian clothes and headdresses are very ornate. There are still many Indians in America living on reservations.

Final arrangements are being made for the forthcoming link meeting. The next meeting on May 9 will be the AGM and resolutions will also be discussed. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

ANN VIPOND

DROP-IN SURGERIES
Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding a drop-in surgery in Blackmill on Friday April 26 between 1pm – 2pm at Smith's Cafe (near the Ogmore Junction pub) followed by street surgeries in the area between 2pm – 4pm.

TOWN PRESSURE GROUP TO THE RESCUE...

£1,800 for Lifeguards to help replace their stolen quad bike



LEFT, the group proudly display the cheque.
ABOVE, the donation is handed over to the Lifeguards.

Pictures by
MALCOLM NUGENT.

IT was all smiles on a beautiful sunny morning in Porthcawl last Saturday as Rest Bay Lifeguards received a welcome cash boost to help replace their stolen quad bike.

Porthcawl First – a local pressure group – arranged a fundraising evening after the quad bike, used to launch the rescue boat and jet-ski when surfers and swimmers get into trouble, was stolen by callous thieves last year.

The fundraiser held at the Hi Tide in March, was attended by over 100 people and was supported by local business, raising £1,800 toward the replacement cost of £8,000.

Independent town councillor Mark Davies, who helped organise the event, said: "Whoever stole the quad bike put lives at risk and we couldn't stand by and do nothing. We would like to thank all those who

GW

supported the event, especially those local businesses who donated raffle prizes and auction lots. This is a fantastic example of how our community can really pull together".

Les Tallon-Morris, chairman of Porthcawl First, said: "We started as a local pressure group trying to influence local councillors to put the needs of Porthcawl before party politics – but as the group has developed, we are keen to do more to assist the local community – this is our way of demonstrating that".

Chris Page from Rest Bay Lifeguards (seen above, receiving the cheque) said: "We are thrilled that the local community has stepped in to help us replace this vital piece of life saving equipment and we are very grateful to Porthcawl First".

The fundraising continues and Chris is keen to see more similar events as the club tries to recover from its loss.

GW

ALCHEMY TALK

KRIS EVANS, a poet and artist from Kenfig, will lead a debate on alchemy at the Green Room, (4-5 James Street, above SUSSED), on Friday, May 3, at 8pm.

He is currently writing a book-length sequence of poems on alchemy-related themes, entitled A Novel.

The talk will examine some of the claims and processes of alchemy, and also the causes – and the consequences – of its ultimate rejection, and ask what insight it might offer the world at a time of global turmoil.

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Highlight of London Marathon was the finish line!

GAVIN GATES from Bridgend, was celebrating on Sunday (April 21), after crossing the finishing line at the Virgin London Marathon and helping to raise vital funds to support vulnerable children and young people.

Gavin, 33, who works in mental health rehabilitation, was celebrating in three hours, 33 minutes and seven seconds. He commented: "I chose to run for the NSPCC as I'm a father of two boys and have previously worked for a children's residential organisation – so have seen first-hand children who need love and support.

"My absolute highlight of the race was seeing the finish line".

It is hoped that participants who supported the NSPCC in the marathon will have raised up to £1m, which will help the charity to save, change and improve the lives of children all year round through its local community services, including a helpline for adults worried about a child and ChildLine – the UK's free, confidential 24-hour helpline and online service.

NSPCC community fundraising manager, Jo Leonard said: "We had yet another fantastic event, and the support from our volunteers has been absolutely incredible.

"Each year, hundreds of people from across the

UK come together to be part of the NSPCC's London Marathon team, raising vital funds to help protect vulnerable children across the UK and the Channel Islands.

"A huge thank you to everyone who played a part in the NSPCC's London Marathon team, we simply couldn't continue to provide our services, which are a lifeline to many children, without the support of people like Gavin – a big thank you to everyone!"

Anyone interested in finding out more about running for the NSPCC

in events around the UK and abroad, should call the NSPCC Cymru/Wales fundraising team on 0203 188 3658; or email walesappeals@nspcc.org.uk.

FORMER Glamorgan cricket star, Hugh Morris, valiantly completed the London Marathon, despite having suffered a painful injury just a few weeks ago, writes TIM CHAPMAN.

Hugh is very close to raising an impressive £10,000 for his chosen cause, 'Heads Up, Head and Neck Cancer Charity' which funds pioneering into head and neck cancer.

After a distinguished career for Glamorgan and England, Hugh, of Cowbridge, joined the England and Wales Cricket Board and now serves as its managing director.

His emotional attachment to 'Heads Up, Head and Neck Cancer Charity' is due in part to his experience in surviving throat cancer in 2002-03. Hugh has been a patron of the charity for six years.

His preparation for the London Marathon was ruined after he sustained an injury in the lead-up to the event.

"As I tore a calf muscle six weeks ago and could not run for the period leading up to the marathon the day proved tough.

"The first half actually went well and I reached the halfway marker in 2 hours 14 mins, but miles 14 to 22 were very challenging and I eventually crossed the line in 4 hours and 53 minutes.

"There was a great atmosphere and it was a wonderful experience with top weather – but never again!"

So far, Hugh's fundraising figure stands at £9,597.05. He would love to pass the £10,000 mark.

There is still time to leave an encouraging comment and a donation on Hugh's on-line donation page at: <http://www.justgiving.com/Hugh-Morris>.

150 more jobs as Ford plans new generation engine in Bridgend

FORD'S Bridgend engine plant is set to take on around 150 more workers to build a new fuel-efficient engine.

It will increase the workforce to 2,300 – more than at any other time in the plant's 33-year history.

On Monday (April 22) Ford announced a £24 million investment programme at Bridgend to produce a new fuel-efficient 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine.

EcoBoost technology delivers the power of a larger engine with smaller-unit fuel consumption.

The announcement

includes Welsh Government support of £12 million covering business finance, training and infrastructure works.

Ford in Bridgend produces 2,668 four-cylinder engines each day,

with exports to Spain, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Belgium and the USA.

A spokesman said:

"This delivers an annual

export value of £1.5 bil-

lion when combined with

other Ford UK opera-

tions."

Welsh Government

Minister for Economy,

Edwina Hart, said:

"The Welsh Government has

worked closely with Ford

to secure this investment

and is delighted to con-

firm a support package of

£12 million towards this

exciting programme.

"This will help safe-

guard and create high

quality production and

engineering jobs in

Wales."

Ford of Britain man-

aging director, Mark

Ovenden, said: "The

Welsh Government has

greatly assisted in maxi-

mising the full potential

of Ford's own investmen-

t

in Bridgend and we were pleased to meet the up time.

The Bridgend plant builds six-cylinder and eight-cylinder engines for customers and, together with Ford four-cylinder engines, total production is currently 3,400 engines a day.

The Welsh Government also supports the plant with an annual grant for training of £50,000.

Edwina Hart added: "Ford has invested a total of £1.8billion in its Bridgend plant since it opened in 1980, securing new lines and products that have ensured the plant's on-going success and sustainability.

"This latest invest-

ment is a strong endorse-

ment of the calibre of the highly-skilled workforce and their productivity.

"To-day's news is excellent for the region, for Wales and the advanced materials and manufacturing sector – one of our key economic sectors with high growth potential.

"Ford Bridgend is a prime example of how that potential is being realised, with Welsh Government support."

PHILIP IRWIN

... and Hugh goes through pain barrier for charity

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

Catalonia tour

OGMORE Valley Male Voice Choir has returned from a concert tour of Catalonia in north-east Spain, basing themselves in Lloret de Mar.

They gave four concerts. The first was in the Basilica at Montserrat, a Benedictine abbey built into the mountains about 25 miles from Barcelona. Throughout the year, a boys' choir sing every day, known as Escolania de Montserrat. They take their holidays at Easter and the Ogmore Valley choir were invited to take their place.

They performed in front of hundreds of pilgrims and tourists on Easter Tuesday and were warmly applauded by the congregation of mixed nationalities.

Secretary John Jones, who has been to Montserrat on a number of occasions, could not recall ever hearing applause in the Basilica before. It is not normally done!

The second performance took place in an old people's home near Girona - familiar ground to the boys as they regularly perform in concerts for the aged.

The old people numbered over 100, including carers and visitors and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

The choir and their wives were then invited to partake in a traditional Catalonian Easter treat, each one received a cake decorated with chocolate.

This was followed by everyone having a piece of sponge cake, dipped in a cupful of warm melted chocolate!

In Lloret de Mar, a local choir hosted the next concert in the church - which again was extremely well attended and well received.

Busy times for Bridgend WI

BRIDGEND WI's April meeting on April 16 at Hope Church Hall began with Pauline Long, president, welcoming visitors, and Mary Thomas, who we were pleased to see has recovered from her fall.

Pauline introduced Madori Pritchard, who gave a talk on Japanese customs and demonstrated the wearing of a kimono, beautifully modelled by Jean Williams.

Madori also made an origami crane and gave one to each of the members for peace, happiness and long life.

It was then on with

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



This was followed with a 'Noson Lawen' in the church vestry, with each choir giving renditions and sometimes combining in the singing of the likes of 'Speed Your Journey,' which actually sounded very good, sung in Catalanian, Spanish, Welsh and English, and a smattering of Latin!

The last performance was held in the choir's hotel and the choir were amazed to see an audience turn up, again of different nationalities. A lady made introductions in five different languages, which included Dutch and German.

Under the baton of musical director, Eira Paskin and with accompanist/soloist, Catrin Eleri Jenkins and Phil Davies on guitar, a successful tour was concluded.

The choir rehearse at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, on Thursday evenings.

There will be a warm welcome for visitors and prospective new members.

Japanese visitor

Aberkenfig and District WI's president, Eunice Williams, welcomed members to the meeting on April 10, when 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Pat Lewis.

Forthcoming events include the Glamorgan

Council meeting in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on April 29, the WI's annual general meeting on May 8 and the annual lunch in the Mason's Arms, Bryncethin, on May 15.

Eunice then welcomed the speaker for the afternoon, Madori Pritchard, a Japanese lady, originally from Osaka, who has been living in Wales for 19 years.

Madori told the members that the population of Japan is 187 million. Children don't start school in Japan until they are six years old, attend primary school for six years, high school for three years then move on to college.

The children help clean the school and serve the school lunch.

Madori was dressed in a traditional kimono and demonstrated how this is worn by dressing Eunice in a beautiful summer kimono, with sash and fan.

There are different styles of kimono for special occasions; for coming of age at 20 years, a special kimono with long sleeves is worn and a white kimono is worn at funerals. The bride and groom have three changes of kimono each for the wedding ceremony. Madori had also brought with her a selection of items in everyday use in the Japanese home, such as teapot and little cups for the tea ceremony.

A vote of thanks was given by Dilys Mitchell who thanked Madori for her very interesting talk.

The competition for an item beginning with the letter 'E' was won by Eunice with a large Easter egg - and the raffle was won by Betty Samuel, Dorothy Kingston and Dilys Mitchell.

Eunice thanked the tea hostesses Hilary Crocombe, Mairi Starr and Dilys Mitchell.

The annual general meeting on May 8 at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Personly, Aberkenfig, when the competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'B'. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Band session
OGMORE Valley Silver Band is setting up training sessions for anyone who would like to learn to play a musical instrument.

TB

and the report can be seen on the school's website www.schoolswire.co.uk/public/tondu789

The school's performance was rated as good, with most pupils making good progress.

The overall standard in foundation phase and in Key Stage 2 is above average. Literacy and numeracy standards are also good and all pupils behave well.

Pontycymre RFC

TOMORROW evening (April 26)

there will be a tribute concert at the club by Cwr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir).

The choir has had close links with the rugby club since the clubhouse was opened.

It has been given use

of the club's concert hall for its rehearsals for the practice sessions.

The band recently

competed in heats for

the national finals, and

were unfortunate not to

compete in the finals by

taking third place in the

south Wales area.

The instruments are

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Having a wild time at the Bryngarw Bushwaka event!



People of all ages enjoyed the first ever Bushwaka event at Bryngarw House and Country Park.

teams, together with the Bryngarw rangers and the council's 'Reach' rural development team.

Visitors also had the opportunity to see a traditional blacksmith and chainsaw carver in action, and were able to hold birds of prey.

Willow weaving and storytelling were other popular activities at the event which was organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's countryside and tourism

Bushwaka was such a big hit with families. Following its debut success, next year's Bushwaka promises to be even bigger, better and wilder!"

The next major event taking place locally will be 'The Bridgend Mash Up', which will turn the town centre into a frenzy of street sports, music and all-round urban entertainment on Saturday, May 18.

To find out more, visit www.bridgendbites.com.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Lab Automotive - Penybont Industrial Estate, Coity Road, Bridgend - sign to advertise two businesses at entrance to Penybont Industrial Estate.

Mr Stuart Davies - 92 Heol West Plas Coity, Bridgend - fell conifer tree.

Mr William Eynon - Tusker House Woods, Bridgend Road, Porthcawl - various works to Elm, Ash and Sycamore trees.

JB Leadbitter & Co Ltd - Coleg Cymydoel Y Dderwen, Heol Y Ysgol, Bridgend - two main entrance signs.

Bassett's Nissan - Bassett's Nissan, Dunraven Rd, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend - installation of new corporate Nissan signs.

Mr Darren Hopkins - 37 West Road, Porthcawl, Bridgend - driveway to front of property and drop kerb.

Kwik Fit Properties Ltd - Kwik Fit, Pictor Court Retail Park, Waterton, Bridgend - single storey extension to motorist centre.

Notemachine - Post Office, 6 Bridgend Road, Maesteg, Bridgend - retention of ATM.

Mr Jason White - 8 Milton Drive, Cefn Glas, Bridgend - single storey side extension and loft conversion.

Mr Gwyn Harding - 49 Heol Y Bardd, Bridgend - single storey front extension.

Jones Transport & Building - Plot 40 Sturmi Way, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle, Bridgend - use of land for concrete manufacturing including installation of batching plant and ancillary dev.

Mr Nicholas Harris - 6 Cae Ffynnon, Brackla, Bridgend - erect porch to front of house.

Mr Robert Jackson - 50 Heol Croes, Pencoed, Bridgend - half brick/glass conservatory to rear of property.

Mr Lee Baglow - 10 Beach Road, Porthcawl, Bridgend - dormers to

front and both side elevations and rear dormer with french doors and Juliet balcony.

Miss T John - 5 Cwmdu Street, Maesteg - single storey rear bathroom extension.

Mr SL Clarke - 20 Heol Pantruthin, Pencoed - single storey extension and integral garage conversion.

Waterstone Homes Ltd - Maerdy Hotel, Cwchurh Road, Pencoed, Bridgend - demolish hotel and ancillary structures and construct 11 dwellings and associated works.

S Wales Land Developments Ltd - Land at Brackla Industrial Estate, Brackla, Bridgend - development of up to 230 dwellings and 0.3 hectares of mixed use centre (use classes A1, A3 and C3).

Samawi Ltd - Land rear of Princess Street, Maesteg, Bridgend - two detached dwellings, access road and landscaping - re-sub of P/12/474/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Jones - 35 Rhodfa Mes, Bridgend - ground floor side extension.

CDS (Superstores Internl) Ltd - The Range, Units 6/7 Waterton Retail Park, Bridgend - Relax condition of 1 of P/95/1044/FUL to permit the use of part of store as an ancillary cafe.

CDS (Superstores Internl) Ltd - The Range, Units 6/7 Waterton Retail Park, Bridgend - Erect side extension to provide 536sqm of class A1 retail floorspace.

Mr Malcolm Pearce - 5 Llys Teg, Broadlands, Bridgend - Convert integral garage into study.

ON a wet and windy Sunday morning, cadets and staff from 2011 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Cadets boarded the bus to Carmarthen leisure centre, to take part in the No 3 Welsh Wing Inter Squadron athletics meeting.

The cadets entered track and field events, with the hope of being chosen to represent the Wing at RAF Cosford in May.

All cadets competed, with Cdt Sgt Aston winning the Class B Middle Boys' trophy.

We are still waiting to see who is to represent the Wing at RAF Cosford, but I am sure there will be some cadets from Kenfig Hill selected.

**LINDSAY THOMAS
(Secretary Civilian Committee)**

CLASSIC CAR CLUB BRINGS FAMOUS NAMES OF MOTORING ONTO ROADS IN BRIDGEND

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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MEMBERS of the South Wales Classic Car Club were out and about in Bridgend county borough for 'Drive-it Day'.

Drive-it Day is a national event organised by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs.

About 30 members of the South Wales club met at Sarn before heading off for the drive.

The club's next big event is on May 12 at Pencoed College, when it holds the South Wales Classic Car Show.

A spokesman said: "The show is run by our members, with help from organisations such as the Lions and the ATC.

"It attracts thousands of visitors, and also raises money for local charities."



WHO WILL GIVE SONNY BOY A QUIET HOME?

SONNY is a four-year-old Labrador, who was originally from a puppy farm and, sadly, as a result of some medical problems, has not yet found a home.

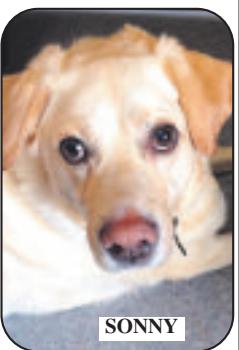
The Dogs Trust is willing to help with the cost of his veterinary care in order to find him a loving home.

He is a lovely, affectionate boy, who is looking for a quiet home.

He loves a warm spot to snooze in, and is currently spending most of his time with the staff in reception, where he has found a sunny spot.

He would like to be the only dog in the home – although he does get on with other dogs when out and about.

He can live with children of 11 plus, who understand that he likes his quiet time now and



SONNY

again. He is happy with a couple of gentle strolls a day.

If you can give Sonny a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

We have around 70 dogs in the centre at any one time – so please visit to see if your new best friend is waiting for you!

LINDA FEAGAN,
Supporter relations officer,
Dogs Trust, Bridgend



Fire Service rescues family after house fire in Wildmill

A YOUNG family in Wildmill had a lucky

escape when fire broke out in their home during the night.

At about 1am on Sunday (April 22) fire-fighters were called to the house, where they saw smoke billowing from a first floor window.

A Fire Service spokeswoman said: "Fire crews immediately attempted to gain access to the property using breathing apparatus, a hose reel and thermal imaging cameras.

"This is just one of a number of incidents in

the south Wales area that can be attributed to electrical appliances, and highlights the dangers of not unplugging all electrical items – including washing machines and tumble dryers – when they are not in use, or leaving them switched on and unattended late at night".

He continued: "I would also like to take this opportunity to remind home owners that they should have working smoke alarms on each level of their property – this will give you and your family an early warning of any smoke and/or a fire."

"All were treated for shock and minor smoke inhalation but did not require hospitalisation. "The incident was accidentally caused by a tumble dryer."

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Andy Thomas said: "This young family had a very lucky escape – the outcome could have been very different."

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Andy Thomas said: "This young family had a very lucky escape – the outcome could have been very different."

Local mental health support highlighted

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has pledged its support for people experiencing mental health problems by hosting an awareness-raising session at the Civic Offices.

The session, marking Depression Awareness Week, featured members of staff from Mental Health Matters Wales, BAVO, and Hafal, running an information stand at the Civic Offices to highlight the support services they can offer to people experiencing mental health problems such as depression, a spokesman reports.

Co-ordinated by the council's equalities and engagement team, a private meeting space was also available for people who wanted to talk to the mental health charity's staff in confidence.

Following the event, the information stand remained at the Civic Offices during the remainder of Depression Awareness Week, and included a secure box for people seeking support to place their contact details for the charity to collect.

The Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, said: "It's fantastic that the equalities and engagement team are forging strong partnerships between the council and

organisations like Mental Health Matters Wales, BAVO and Hafal,

as it means that we can work together to make people aware of the support available to people experiencing problems like depression.

"Many people will experience a mental health problem in their lifetime. It's important that we continue to raise awareness about mental health problems, so that people experiencing them don't have to face their battles alone,"

Coun Sage added. Karen Powell from Mental Health Matters Wales said: "We are grateful to Bridgend County Borough Council for giving us this opportunity to promote our services to a wider audience. We offer free services to anyone over 18 experiencing mental health issues.

"We look forward to strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.

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Assembly launches end of life care plan in Bridgend

RIGHT: Health Minister Mark Drakeford meets Hilary Dover, ABMU locality director for Bridgend; Michele Howe, district nurse team leader; Elizabeth Collier, integrated community network work manager.

STAFF supporting terminally ill patients in Bridgend expressed delight that their centre was used by Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, for the launch of the Welsh Government's new initiative.

Y Bwthyn Newydd at the Princess of Wales Hospital provides specialist palliative (end of life) care for patients with life limiting diseases.

It was chosen by the Minister as the place to launch the Welsh Government's 'Together for Health - Delivering End of Life Care Delivery Plan'.

The initiative aims to ensure that patients' wishes are heard and met when planning how and where their last few



days should be spent.

As well as launching the policy, the Minister met with some of the nursing staff who support patients both on hospital wards and at home.

Dr Ed Roberts, Vice Chairman of ABMU Health Board, said:

"We are delighted that the Minister decided to launch 'Together for Health - Delivering End of Life Care Delivery Plan' at Y Bwthyn Newydd.

"He had the opportunity to speak to staff who provide high quality, holistic care in a centre designed appropriately for the service provided.

"The Minister also, and importantly, met

community nurses who explained their skills, abilities and enthusiasm for their role.

"Their work supports patients who want to be at home with their families and in familiar surroundings, avoiding hospital admissions wherever possible.

"End of life care epitomises multidisciplinary integrated team working, where skills, knowledge and sympathetic care are shared by staff supporting families as well as patients.

"I recognise and applaud our staff for the continuous high quality of their care, provided with respect and dignity at all times."

Dr Idris Baker, consultant in palliative

medicine, said: "It is so important that we treat the patient, and their family, rather than the illness. We must listen to what the patient has to say so we can do all that we can to ensure that we meet their needs as far as possible.

"We have to try to get it right every time, not just some of the time, as we have only one chance to make a difference. The initiative launched today will help teams in health and social care to do just that."

Mr Drakeford commented: "Inequalities at the end of life are as unacceptable as inequalities in life. Good quality end of life care must be available

wherever and whenever an individual dies, taking into account their wishes.

"The plan sets out how we will achieve consistent end of life care across Wales, reducing the stress of terminal illness for the patient and their family, so they feel well cared for and supported."

Y Bwthyn Newydd has an inpatient ward and a day centre. Staff also support patients in the community and on hospital wards.

The team consists of a range of healthcare professionals, including consultants, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, a social worker and chaplaincy support.

A YOUNG man who committed two robberies within 24 hours, targeting vulnerable women newsagents has been jailed for three years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Ross Williams, 24, a man with no previous convictions had gone a "downward spiral" after taking drink and drugs, said Judge Eleri Rees.

Williams, 24, of Nightingale Place, Dinas Powys, pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery.

Said the judge: "For those two ladies, it must have been a terrifying experience."

An aggravating feature, she said, was that after the first robbery, he had had "time to reflect" before deciding to commit another.

Prosecutor Heath Edwards, said that on March 13, Louise Edwards was in the newsagents shop on The Parade, Dinas Powys, when the defendant walked in wearing a balaclava, and holding a

CROWN COURT REPORT
by AJ SICLUNA

one-foot long bar.

He shouted: "I want the money out of the till."

She was frightened, and handed over £100 before he left.

The following day, he robbed Praya Patel, who was running a newsagents in Plassey Street, Penarth. Again, he had balaclava over his head, raised a pole he was carrying and said:

"Give me all your money. Give me all your notes."

Mrs Patel believed she was going to be struck, but activated the alarm before handing over £90.

Williams fled from the scene in a car, and a passer-by took the number and five minutes later, Williams was arrested.

He had hidden the cash in a shoe.

He denied being involved in either robbery.

It later emerged that it was the second robbery the first victim had experienced. The second victim said that she had been extremely worried because her husband was unwell.

Nicholas Gedge for Williams said: "He had never before been in trouble with the police, and has expressed deep regret. He has come across as someone bewildered as to how he got in such a position. He comes from a close family and this is the first time they've encountered anything like this.

"These robberies were out of character. Force was threatened, but not used.

"Though he didn't thrive at school, he has successful employment and references speak glowingly of him. He had been upset when he went through a series of bereavements."

He said he had gone to his doctor and sought help, and had engaged with him.

Mr Gedge said there was little risk of him reoffending.

Three years' jail for man who committed two robberies



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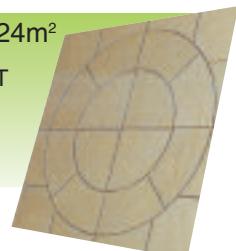
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Remploy closure is a grim day for Bridgend

UK GOVERNMENT'S DECISION 'WRONG'

THE closure of the Remploy factory in Bridgend has been described as "an end of an era" by Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister Huw Lewis, after the site closed its doors for the last time today (Thursday, April 25).

In June last year, the UK Government announced that the majority of Remploy factories in Wales were to close, including Bridgend, which used to employ 46 people.

The Welsh Government opposed the decision from the start and vowed to provide all the support it could to help those affected to find new work and training.

In July 2012, Welsh Ministers launched the Employer Support Grant, a financial support package to employers looking to offer suitable and sustainable employment to displaced Remploy workers in Wales. The scheme is expected to cost up to

£2.4 million a year. According to the latest information available, of the 46 former Remploy workers in Bridgend, 40 have found work or begun new training through a comprehensive support package provided by the Welsh Government.

Commenting on the closure, Huw Lewis said: "This is a sad month for Bridgend and an end of an era for the workers who have put so much into this factory. Remploy had played a significant role in the wider community and provided valuable employment for many."

HOPES DASHED

"The UK Government's decision to close the site was wrong. Despite the efforts of the hard working staff to prove the viability of the plant, their hopes were ultimately dashed."

"I believe the UK Government's decisions regarding Remploy will not progress the cause of disabled people. Many of the workers here have

spent their whole careers at the plant, and facing the future has been daunting."

"That is why we promised to do all we can to help those affected, and created the Employer Support Grant, a financial support package to help employers looking to offer suitable and sustainable employment to displaced Remploy workers in Wales."

"I am pleased that despite the closure of the Bridgend site, the Welsh Government has been able to help workers find new employment."

"It is encouraging to see that our Employer Support Grant is having such a positive impact."

"Working closely with organisations such as the local Job Centre Plus, local councils and other public sector bodies has ensured that the number of former Remploy workers finding work is growing."

"With the support of the grant, their experiences and skills continue to benefit a growing number of organisations."

House burglary: POLICE APPEAL



BRIDGEND police investigating a burglary at a house on Heol Fronfraithfawr on the Broadsands housing estate, between 9am-6.45pm on Wednesday, April 4, have appealed to the public for help.

They said access was gained to the semi-detached property after the rear back door was forced open and among items stolen were jewellery and watches.

These included a white gold three-diamond engagement ring, an Omega Seamaster watch with a stainless steel bracelet, and an Omega Planet Ocean watch with stainless steel bracelet (pictured above).

Detective Constable Phil Colston of Bridgend CID said: "We are appealing for any infor-

mation regarding this burglary. There will have been some noise created by whoever is responsible."

"We want to hear from anyone who may have been in the area during the day and who may have seen anyone behaving suspiciously."

"I am also interested in a scrap metal lorry which was seen around the area during the day."

"This vehicle is described as having a blue cab and caging around the rear."

"In addition, if you have been offered any of the stolen items, please contact us."

Contact DC Colston at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111 (quote reference 62130097946).

TREASURER STOLE FROM CARE HOME

THE treasurer of an association connected with a Freemasons' care home, stole funds of more than £90,000, Cardiff Crown Court has been told, writes AJ SICLUNA.

David Griffiths (77) had problems with paying credit card bills, before resorting to crime, said prosecutor David Pugh.

Griffiths, of Parklands, Corntown, who had no previous convictions, had admitted a charge of theft before Vale Magistrates, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Mr Pugh said he had been the treasurer of the Association of Friends at the Albert

Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl.

Last year, irregularities were spotted on the balance sheet, and Griffiths was questioned.

It was also discovered that there were problems having invoices paid. Griffiths had failed to produce end of year accounts and made excuses for that.

The defendant was pressed when the chairman called at his home and he admitted that a balance sheet was not a true record, and in the past there had been false balance sheets.

Mr Pugh said he admitted taking money to pay credit card debts.

He accepted that for

had not been audited.

The court heard that he had medical problems, including indications of prostate cancer, through an equity release scheme, Griffiths had repaid £60,000.

But later, said Mr Pugh, the true scale of the thefts became apparent, and the total was £90,028.

He was arrested, and accepted he had been "disgracefully" stolen money from a charity, puffed over many years."

He said that the prison sentence range was between two and six years.

He was released on bail.

Changing roles at the Colwinston WI

AT the annual meeting of Colwinston and Llysworney WI, Kath Jones retired as president after many years and Pat Johnson and Sue MacKinnon were elected joint presidents.

The committee: Dolores Howells, Chris Gill, Hilary Jones, Hilary Sheldon, Annie Sant, Sue Gattis and Mo Hawkins were all re-elected.

Judith Lucas, the WI advisor, thanked Kath for all her hard work over the years and welcomed the new presidents to the job and wished them every success for the future. Sue MacKinnon had written in verse about the past year's events.

The WI is celebrating its 50th anniversary on May 5, with a church service and afternoon tea. The next meeting will be a visit to Waitrose on May 13.

All members are looking forward to another exciting year of speakers and events.

City promotion will benefit Cardiff Airport

ON Saturday, Cardiff City secured their promotion to the Premier League with a 0-0 draw at home to Charlton Athletic – to end a 51-year absence from the top flight.

The club's promotion

will help in boosting

flights and passenger

numbers at Cardiff

Airport.

The airport will

mainly benefit due to

additional ad-hoc char-

ter flights by many visit-

ing teams and some of

Cardiff City away

games.

It is also highly likely

that City's promotion

will also generate an

increase in private

flights during match

days.

The airport will

would like to wish

Cardiff City the very

best of luck next season

and hope they and

Swansea City are suc-

cessful in staying in the

top flight for many

years to come.

Gerald Marsh,

Wales Air Forum

ago, Swansea City were successful and have remained there since.

Cardiff Airport will now see high profile teams such as Manchester United, Chelsea, Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool visit twice next season.

The airport are not strangers to dealing with such high profile events and have experience in dealing with the annual RBS Six Nations airlifts, Heineken Cup finals, Rugby World Cup, FA Cup Finals and Ryder Cup.

The Wales Air Forum would like to wish Cardiff City the very best of luck next season and hope they and

Swansea City are successful in staying in the top flight for many years to come.

Gerald Marsh,

Wales Air Forum

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Y BONT SPEAKERS
Y BONT is arranging an evening to raise awareness of autism, which will be held on Thursday, May 23, at 6.30pm in Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend.

There will be two speakers: Robert Parton, aged 18 from Swansea, who has high functioning autism. Diagnosed at three, with very limited speech and profound sensory issues, he has overcome adversity to become a truly amazing public speaker; and his mum, Anna Parton, BSc RD Reg dietitian, of over 25 years, who will give practical 'do-able' advice.

There will also be a range of information available from local services, organisations and groups, including the Bridgend branch of National Autism Society.

Tickets £5, available to order from Y Bont (telephone 01656 646013) or email admin@ybont.com.

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Wales coach Warren pays a visit to local rugby club

WARREN Gatland and Roger Lewis literally went back to the grassroots of Welsh rugby this week when they attended a 'cutting of the sod' ceremony at the Cefn Cribwr club in Bridgend.

Wales coach Gatland, who is currently on sabbatical to take charge of the British and Irish Lions tour of Australia this summer, and WRU chief executive Lewis were special guests at the ceremonial event to mark the relocation to a new club house of the 125 year old SWALEC league division four south-west outfit.

Funded by a core development grant from the WRU, money allocated by the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust and the Waterloo foundation, work has begun on a new clubhouse at Cefn, the idea for which is first mooted in club committee minutes of 1961.

Lewis happens to be president of the club, but it has been the hard work of committee members behind the scenes who have secured almost £60,000 worth of the kind of funding available to all WRU



ABOVE: Roger Lewis, Paul Wintle, D. Teify Davies, Coun David Sage (deputy leader) and Warren Gatland.

member clubs over the past five years and made this 50-year-old plan become a modern reality.

"Cefn have been smart in the way they have worked to source funding and all the hard work they have done has paid dividends as we can see today," said Mr Lewis.

"This new base will make a real and physical difference not only to the club, but to the local community, and the corporate message from me

to all of our member clubs is that this could be you."

"The WRU wants everyone involved in the community game to be fully aware of the available funding streams which have resulted in almost £27 million being received by rugby clubs across Wales from the governing body over the past five years, with Cefn being an excellent example of how to do it."

The ceremony was also attended by a

unique local VIP, Mr. D. Teify Davies, who, at 92 years of age, is Cefn's oldest surviving player - and he also coached the Cefn invincibles side of the 1950s.

"It was a particular pleasure to have Warren Gatland and Roger Lewis here to support this great community project in Cefn, not least because we now have on record Warren's commitment to ensure the club is represented by two players in his Lions' squad this summer," said

Paul Wintle, honorary general secretary of Cefn Cribwr RFC.

"We will hold Warren to that although it may be too late for Teify, who was courted by Cardiff rugby club in his prime. But his family in particular were instrumental in realising the need for an Athletic Club in Cefn; his brother Roy was a WRU representative that gained Cefn RFC's full WRU status back in 1972 and he deserves our gratitude.

"There is also the Bridgend County Borough Council and Coun David Sage, Deputy Leader to thank - their officers have worked tirelessly across all departments to ensure that we have access to the relevant land."

"An array of local sponsors and benefactors, including Darlow Lloyd Construction Ltd, have also provided support and committed themselves to this community project. But we particularly owe a debt to the club's current committee who have brought this project to fruition."

"The current club opened in 1964, but the need for a club house at the playing fields is first recognised by the committee minutes of 1961, so those intrepid people will be delighted with today's peer group now that this is actually happening ... even if it is 52 years late!"

Cefn Cribwr rugby club will relocate to its new club house at the Cae Gof playing fields in Cefn in time to celebrate the 125 year anniversary of its existence next season.



Captain Matthew Owen on the charge. (Pictures by TRACEY WILLIAMS)

Porthcawl play out a cracker!

THIS was a crunch 6-pointer of a match for both Porthcawl RFC and Pontrhydfen, described at the end by referee Peter Mortimer as a match neither side deserved to lose.

Indeed, it took until the very last play well into injury time for the result to be settled.

Pont started very well, their big pack showing just what they were capable of, yet the Seaweeds matched them with magnificent defence and a strong scrum where Gavin Williams was superb.

The visitors almost got in front with a narrowly missed penalty after 25 minutes; however a superbly co-ordinated move started by right wing Sean Simmonds on the right side of the field, feeding Ollie Jones who took play wide and left.

Following Nick Nutman's superb run and support from Steve Phillips, Simmonds ended up on the left



Ross Bloomfield with the ball.

wing to take a scoring pass. Skipper Matthew Owen landed great conversion to make it 7-0.

The visitors responded almost immediately and tested the home defence and secured an unconverted try for 7-5 before Owen landed the first of three penalties and at 10-5 Porthcawl

were worth the lead at the break.

When Owen opened the second half scoring with another superb penalty from 45 meters, at 13-5 it seemed to be Porthcawl's day, only for Pont to retrieve matters with a converted try in what was turning into the promised ding-dong battle between two uncompromising teams.

Both sides played flat out for an opening but a mixture of good defence and the bounce of the ball snuffed out all attempts to secure the next score.

With the match entering its final 10 minutes, Owen seemed to have sealed it for the Seaweeds with his third penalty, and only stubborn home defence keeping Pont's desperate attacks at bay and it became obvious that the next score would settle the match.

With the match into its final seconds, and the home defence stretched, the visitors snatched the result with an unconverted try, with Mr Mortimer blowing his whistle to end a tumultuous battle, the final score 16-17.

The visitors left the pitch cock-a-hoop, with Porthcawl rueing those desperate last few seconds that led to the final break.

A very good match and credit to both sides for an entertaining encounter - the return at Pontrhydfen promises to be a cracker.



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Clair Davies of Guide Dogs Cymru with guide dog puppy Sparky and one of the new collecting boxes.

Please take a collection box' plea to local firms.

tears to empty the collecting boxes from time to time. The role of box co-ordinator is an important one, and can be adapted to suit the time a person is able to spare.

The new boxes are really cute and I hope local businesses and their customers will be able to give our dogs a home."

The charity is also recruiting volunteers

If you are interested in the collecting box co-ordinator role or would like to place a Guide Dogs box on your premises, please contact Frank Greig on 07766 367081 or email him at Frank.Greig@guidedogs.org.uk.

PAGEANTRY AT INAUGURATION OF NEW HIGH SHERIFF FOR MID GLAMORGAN

Report and photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

HIGH Sheriffs are changed annually, and this year it was the turn of **Rory JM McLaggan** to be inaugurated to this historic office which is, incidentally, the oldest secular office in Britain after the Crown.

In a ceremony befitting its historical role and with the pomp, circumstance and protocol passed down through the ages, the trumpeters of the South Wales Police Band sounded a fanfare to welcome the incoming High Sheriff and his party as they arrived at Merthyr Mawr House, Bridgend.

They were greeted there by Mrs Kathrin Thomas, CVO, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Mid Glamorgan as Keeper of the Rolls, Philip Evans, the Under Sheriff, and Miss Mary Squire, the clerk to the Lieutenancy.

The inauguration ceremony commenced to a second fanfare as the procession of dignitaries entered the assembly room where the guests were already present. While waiting, the guests had been entertained by musicians Hannah Clist (cello) and Robin Tait (piano).

The proceedings were initiated by the Lord Lieutenant as Keeper of the Rolls, who read the 'Warrant of Appointment of Rory McLaggan as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan for 2013-2014'.

The Under Sheriff then produced the 'High Sheriff's declaration to the Lord Lieutenant,' which was read out loud and subsequently signed by Rory McLaggan in the presence of His Honour Judge R



ABOVE: High Sheriff Rory McLaggan and his wife Lana. Rory is dressed in the ceremonial uniform of the High Sheriff, which dates from the late 17th Century and is called Court Dress.

Twomlow.

The completed 'Declaration' was then handed by the Lord Lieutenant to the clerk of the Lieutenancy for safe keeping, together with a copy of the 'Warrant of Appointment'.

Finally, the Lord Lieutenant called upon the High Sheriff's chaplain, the Rev Patrick Mansel Lewis, to offer the bidding prayer.

Proceedings over, the trumpeters sounded a final fanfare and the Shrieval party processed out of the assembly room to join the High Sheriff for the reception.

Following the inauguration of the new



ABOVE (left to right): Under Sheriff Philip Evans; Leading Sea Cadet Lucy Gillard; HM Lord Lieutenant Mrs Kathrin Thomas, CVO; outgoing High Sheriff Mrs Ann Jenkins; incoming High Sheriff Rory McLaggan; Air Cadet Flight Sergeant Josh Williams; and Clerk to the Lieutenancy Miss Mary Squire.



ABOVE:
The McLaggan family, many of whom had come over from Canada (Vancouver and Saskatoon) especially for the occasion.

RIGHT:
Musicians Hannah Clist (cello) and Robin Tait (piano)



The Outgoing High Sheriff, Mrs Ann Jenkins, with Geraint Jenkins.



ABOVE: The outgoing High Sheriff, Mrs Ann Jenkins, handing over the sword of office via the Lord Lieutenant to the incoming High Sheriff, Rory McLaggan.



ABOVE:
Trumpeters of the South Wales Police Band:
Lianne Davies, John Butler, Dave Tucker, Richard Isaacs, Mark Smith and Steve Gorwell.



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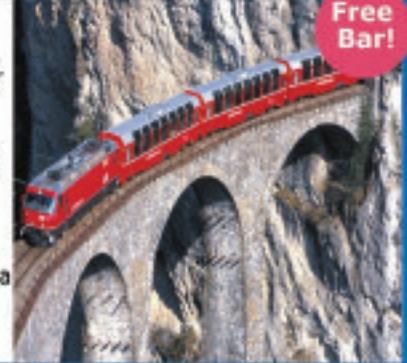
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- Gala dinner with typical Tuscan cuisine.



Free Bar!

Green Spain

****Gran Hotel Suances
8 days - 4 Jun

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Free Bar!

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Chair of board slams 'unfounded allegations' by Conservatives over Barry Regeneration

THE chair of the Barry Regeneration Board has insisted that its work is progressing well – in stark contrast to Tory claims last week that the body was "in meltdown".

Coun Lis Burnett, the chairman of the board who is also the Vale cabinet member responsible for regeneration, said the allegations were "very damaging".

The Vale MP, Alun Cairns, and the leader of the Conservatives in Wales, Andrew RT Davies AM, told The GEM last week that they had been approached by Regeneration Board members who were dismayed at its lack of action and progress.

One board member, Mr Paul Haley, expressed frustration that a commissioned report had recommended an aquarium attraction at Nell's Point, but that the Vale Council had rejected it.

But Coun Burnett emphasised that the Vale Council was still fully in favour of bringing a major attraction to Barry Island.

She said she was keen to dispel false rumours relating to the state of the board: "It's a shame that yet again we have to correct comments from local MP Alun Cairns and

Assembly Member, Andrew RT Davies.

"Recent allegations that the Barry Regeneration Area Board is in 'disarray' following the meeting held on April 11 are completely unfounded.

"At a time when we are preparing a very convincing case to Welsh Government, as to why a further round of regeneration money should be directed at Barry, as opposed to other areas, such unwarranted and unfounded allegations are very damaging.

"There is an extremely strong case for Barry – the good work already under way, the fact that we have an Enterprise Zone on our doorstep at St Athan, a track record of completing quality regeneration schemes in the recent past – and, perhaps most importantly, the fact that we have a board of very committed individuals who care about the town."

POINT-SCORING

Coun Burnett said she wanted people pulling in the same direction and that recent criticisms could be counter-productive.

"However, a lot more needs to be done and as cabinet member I want to put forward a 'whole town' bid. To do that, everyone has to play a part and we cannot afford

changes would soon be taking place on the Island.

"In addition to bidding for future funding, I am also eager to press on with key regeneration activity over the next 12 months.

"Local people will soon see activity on Barry Island and will be receiving regular updates on regeneration proposals for the Island.

"Alongside this, we will be inviting expressions of interest for Nell's Point – the aim being to bring a sustainable, high quality attraction to the Island.

"There has been a lot of coverage in the press about a possible aquarium on Nell's Point. The aim of bringing a major leisure and tourism attraction is still at the forefront of our plans, and we share the frustration that circumstances prevented it from being included in this phase of activity.

"The consultant's report, while suggesting a use, did not bring with it a developer. To take the work to the next stage in finding a developer, building the attraction, as well as finding the £1million shortfall in funding, was not possible.

NIGHTCLUB ASSAULT: Police issue a public appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an assault which occurred at the Eclipse nightclub in Penarth when a 24-year-old man from the Spott of Cardiff was left requiring hospital treatment for a wound to his ear.

It occurred between 2am and 2.30am on Sunday, March 31 in the smoking area of the

Eclipse nightclub.

Police said an 18-year-old man from Cardiff has been arrested on suspicion of assault and released on police bail.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Police Constable Kim Niblett at Penarth Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111 (quote reference 62130095546).

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Report by TIM CHAPMAN

by the end of the March 2014 deadline.

"We see the investment that will be made in the Island over the next 12 months as a key part of making the development of Nell's Point happen. The board will play

a key role in all this work. To this end, at the last meeting, the decision was taken to strengthen the role and work of the board by inviting three, key new members to assist in taking forward this important work and

we will announce their names once the decision has been ratified."

Coun Burnett added that she was also meeting with residents of the Island regularly to discuss plans and listen to their thoughts.

Last week, Andrew RT Davies AM called on the

Government to make an urgent statement on the performance of local regeneration, Carl Sergeant, was in the process of reviewing the new boards and a statement will follow in due course.

• **Alun Cairns MP** puts forward his views on Barry Regeneration in his column on page 9.

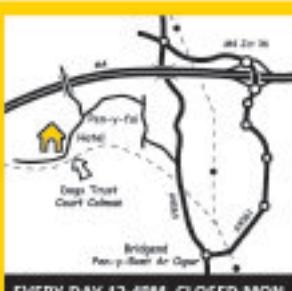
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CARDIFF - PENARTH

Cardiff Airport asks the public, *What do you want from us?*

ATTEMPTS to get Cardiff Airport into the 'airport premier league' have begun with the launch of a survey – aimed at existing and potential customers.

Now officially owned by the Welsh Government, and with a new chief executive, the airport has launched a new customer feedback form and survey to hear exactly what the people of Wales want from their national airport.

Jon Horne, the new CEO at Cardiff Airport said, "When my role was announced, I emphasised my commitment to listening to what people want from their airport, what businesses want and understanding how this can be most successfully delivered.

"This feedback form and survey is the first step in a programme of improved communication between the airport and our market, and I hope people take the opportunity to respond and tell us what is important to them."

The online form and survey will be available on the airport website

<http://www.tbicardiffairport.com/en/survey/> and the aim is for it to become the main contact point for feedback from the public.

The survey covers both travel and the airport experience. In terms of travel, the airport wants to know where people travel to, where from, what influences their travel decisions and what their preferred airport would be.

The airport experience section asks people to rate the importance of factors such as car parking, Wi-Fi access and cleanliness, and also how they currently rate those factors at Cardiff Airport.

Jon Horne added: "We will not be able to do everything at once, but understanding people's priorities will help us determine our key priorities, and inform the process of improving the airport."

The form and survey is now live on the airport's web site from 1000. Written feedback can also be sent to the following address: 'Your airport is listening'; FAO director's office; Cardiff Airport; CF62 3BD.

THE GEM again played a big part in the south Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union winning the ESU National Media Award for the second year running.

Derek Morgan, branch chairman, commended the way in which The GEM continues to support by publishing articles and photographs of branch functions, which were included in the submission for the award.

The latest lunch saw Professor Mike Edmunds of Cardiff University

speak on 'The 2000 Year Old Computer'. The astonishing Antikythera Mechanism was featured in a recent BBC Television programme, and has fundamental implications for explaining the development of Greek cosmology, philosophy and technology.

The next events are the summer garden party at Fonmon Castle on the evening of Friday July 19 and a lunch at Cardiff City Stadium on Friday September 20, with Stanley Johnson as guest speaker.

Further information from Derek Morgan on 01656 669129 or e-mail; derekmorgan@admor-gan.freeserve.co.uk.

ADVERTISMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But, it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a majority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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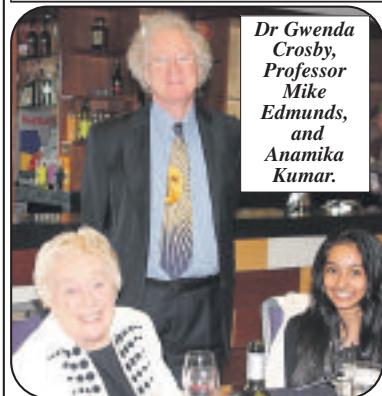
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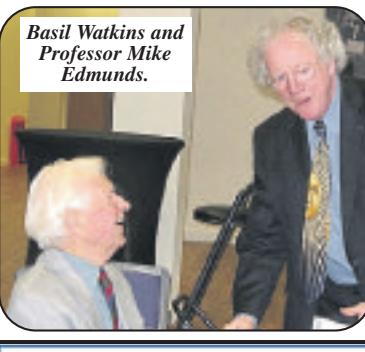
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GEM's role in ESU success is praised

Words and pictures by Heather March



Dr Gwenda Crosby, Professor Mike Edmunds, and Anamika Kumar.



Basil Watkins and Professor Mike Edmunds.

Farmers compete for NFU award

FARMERS' role in their community is being recognised by NFU Cymru with the launch of its annual Community Champion Award – with the winner receiving £500 and two runners-up £100 each.

The Welsh Rural Community Champion Award, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by the Principality Building Society. Applications are invited from throughout Wales from those farmers who use what little spare time they have away from the farm in helping

their local community," said Stephen James, deputy president of NFU Cymru.

"We want to recognise the hard work farmers do off the farm in order to help their local town or village community. Potential award winners could be involved, for example, with their local agricultural show, community events, choir and all sorts of things which play an important part in making a thriving community."

The closing date for entries is June 14, and the winner will be announced on the Thursday of this year's Royal Welsh Show.

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THE VALE IS TAKING ON A FESTIVAL AIR!

OVER the next few weeks, spring will be marked by a number of festivals organised by local groups which will attract visitors from far and wide to the Vale.

There can never be enough publicity for these festivals to ensure that everyone can take part and enjoy the concerts, exhibitions, workshops and walks in venues and communities across the Vale of Glamorgan.

ARTS

So watch out for the Barry Arts Festival, funded by the Arts Council of Wales, which runs from May 18 to early June, with a major programme of events including concerts, plays, exhibitions and workshops.

Tickets are available from the Festival Shop on Holton Road (previously Blockbusters) or you can get the tickets online from the Barry Arts Festival website or Facebook: www.barryartsfestival.org.uk and www.facebook.com/Barr

ArtsFestival. You can also contact 07768 790160.

Well done to Dot Connell, Pat Temple Murray and the team of volunteers who have organised this festival for the second year running in familiar venues around Barry, with support from the Arts Council of Wales.

MUSIC

The Vale of

Glamorgan Music

Festival is also taking

place next month start-

ing on May 9 at St.

Donat's Arts Centre,

with concerts in venues

across the Vale through

to May 18, including

Ewenny Priory, Penmon

Castle, Holy Cross

Church, Cowbridge, as

well as concert halls in

Cardiff.

Described as, 'A World of New Music', the programme features soloists, ensembles and composers from Lithuania, Estonia, Mexico and France, as well as Wales, UK and the US.

Also funded by the Arts Council of Wales and the Vale Council, this festival attracts visitors from across the world to the Vale, thanks to the inspiring vision of artistic direc-

Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and
Leader of the House)

a free event, 10am-12 noon, and tickets can be purchased on the door. Once again check the Dinas Powys Music Festival 2013 website for further details.

WALKS

My final festival listing this week will be the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, organised by voluntary group Valeways - with plenty of walks to suit us all from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2.

Book online or phone 01446-749000 www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk to choose a walk, which can vary from three miles to 7.5 miles, led by experienced walk leaders.

All walks are free. I will definitely be joining the Barry Island Sundowner on Sunday, June 2, at 6pm!

These Festivals put the Vale of Glamorgan on the map and will be important events to welcome visitors to our beautiful county, rich in talent and heritage.

At a recent BarryKucha event organised by Andy Green: www.yourideasbank.org.uk/barryevent, the 'Lucy Dickenson

Award' was announced by Hannah Fitt.

The headline is 'Act local - Think Global' and the award has been established to promote and inspire social enterprises in Barry and beyond.

The closing date for applications is July 31, so this gives plenty of time for the enterprising people of Barry to find

out more and take part. Check out <http://unild.org.uk/expression-of-interest/> or contact Hannah@thesafefoundation.co.uk tel. 02920 020685.

There is so much good going on and so much to support and enjoy in Barry and the rest of the Vale.



ABOVE: The First Minister with club president Rev Mark Lewis.

How Bridgend Rotarians' idea grew into fully-fledged project for Amelia Farm

CARDIFF Airport worker James Katchi is undertaking the ultimate charity fundraiser, by having his legs and chest waxed for the Meningitis Trust, in memory of a colleague's uncle.

The NCP employee at the airport in Rhoose, is about half way to reaching the £1,000 target he's set himself before undertaking the painful procedure, and is looking for supporters to get behind him and make a contribution to his 'Wax On Wax Off' challenge.

Krysia Jarzebek-Darma, the Meningitis Trust's community fundraiser for Wales, said: "We're really grateful to him. While he will be going through the major pain of the waxing, it's not that painful for anyone to make a small donation and help to make a difference to the thousands

of people affected by this terrible disease."

James is undertaking the challenge in support of his colleague Cath Dobbington, who lost her uncle to the disease at the age of 54, eight years ago.

Cath has had collecting tins in place around the airport for the last few months to raise money for the Trust and James's challenge is to help boost this overall donation: "The deal is that James does the waxing and I do the fundraising, with the help of another colleague, Gareth Corcoran, who suffered from meningitis as a baby," Cath added.

The waxing will take place when the £1,000 target has been achieved, and the beauty department of a local college has agreed to wax James free of charge.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

TOP TIPS TO BECOME MENTALLY FIT

WE all know how to stay physically fit and well. We train our bodies by going to the gym or exercise classes - but what about our minds?

Sadly, this is an area often neglected but if left unchecked, can lead to feelings of mental tiredness or anxiety.

Our organisation, Samye Foundation Wales (www.sfwales.org) runs eight-week mindfulness courses, which have been clinically proven to reduce stress and anxiety.

Below are four tips to help you become less stressed and they can be done at your desk at work!

- Bring your attention to your posture and recognise what is going on in your mind.

- Allow thoughts and feelings and emotions to run freely, but become more aware of them.

- Rest your attention on the natural rhythm of your breathing and become more aware of the rise and fall of your abdomen wall, as you inhale and exhale.

- Expand your awareness of your breathing to incorporate your mood and how you're really feeling. Put your hand across your heart and breathe in that feeling. Say to yourself: "It's ok, whatever I'm feeling is already here," and bring expanded awareness of how you're really feeling into that moment.

IN the spring of 2012, Rotarians

Neil Solman and Mark English presented a project idea to the Rotary Club of Bridgend that would greatly assist the Amelia Farm Trust to rehabilitate disadvantaged young people into the community.

Early in the Rotary year 2012-2013, the club were awarded a district simplified grant and the 'idea' became a fully-fledged project. Further funding was supplied by the Amelia Farm Trust, and senior manager Malcolm Jones collected £10,000 on a sponsored cycle ride from Athens to Cardiff.

The Rotary project team, consisting of Neil and Mark, were joined by past president John Ward and the first phase - demolition - commenced.

The first burst of enthusiasm waned somewhat when this three-man team, with a combined age of something over 200 years, were handed a pair of 16-pound sledgehammers and shown a substantial length of solid wall!

Reprise was quick to follow when two strapping young rugby forwards, volunteers at the Farm, relieved them of their burdens and made

short work of the task.

This unstinting assistance and camaraderie was to continue throughout the duration of the building work, the bulk of which was carried out by the Rotary project team.

By this time, Mark had transferred to the Rotary Club of Llanwit Major, but remained fully involved in the work.

The new facility, consisting of a teaching area and two fully-fitted kitchen areas, one of which caters for mobility-challenged young persons, was completed early in 2013 and opened by First Minister Carwyn Jones on April 18.

Sincere thanks were given by the First Minister and by Malcolm Jones to the Rotary Club of Bridgend for their support and the Rotary project team for the large amounts of time and effort put in by them.

The opening ceremony was strongly supported by a large turnout of Bridgend Rotarians. Special thanks must go to project manager Neil Solman, for his prodigious efforts 'above and beyond the Objects of Rotary'.

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WAS £578
NOW £249

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WAS £599
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RAUCH HARVARD
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10 - 6

Sunday

11 - 4



Out and About with The GEM

Vale takes centre stage for popular Music Festival

LOCAL venues will take centre stage for the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival 2013 from May 9 - 18.

The festival, which attracts audiences and music writers from across the UK because of its programming and setting, will take place in venues across the area in a blend of formal and informal, ancient and modern venues – including concert halls, studios, castles and churches in city, countryside and sea landscapes.

Each venue is chosen to offer an ideal and atmospheric setting to hear the pieces of music

performed.

The festival is well known for having an artistic vision that is both adventurous and unique, with an international outlook – featuring only the work of living composers and focusing on their recent music.

This year's festival features six world premieres, seven European premieres, plus performances by resident and visiting artists, some performing in the UK for the first time.

The programme combines day and evening concerts, workshops, talks, discussions and special events.

Ensembles, orchestras

and artists are invited to be a part of the festival by artistic director and composer John Metcalf.

He explains: "We don't consider who will be on tour and then put a festival programme together. We think about the themes we would like to explore and composers we would like to feature."

"From here, we decide who we would ideally like to invite to the festival to give the best experience for our audiences."

"This means that we have performers coming from all over the world, many appearing in the UK for the first time – all coming to the beautiful setting of the Vale of Glamorgan.

"We are also able to combine these visiting artists with some of the best of our home-grown talent."

Full information on festival events, artists and venues available at www.valeofglamorgan-festival.org.uk.

Tickets are available from www.valeofglamorganfestival.ticket-source.co.uk (or by calling 0844 8700 887).

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Valeways walks

TODAY April 25 at 10am, 'North by north west to Y Deri', starting at the church in St Nicholas.

Also on April 25 at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Rhosne railway station car park.

On April 27 at 2pm, Y Garth (Clwb Cerdded Cymraeg) meet at Ysgol Gwaedol (Y Garth School).

On April 28 at 2pm, 'Bluebells and garlic trail' at Dinas Powys hub, Mill Road.

Lib-Dem surgery

WELSH Liberal Democrat regional AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery on

Friday, April 26 in Maesteg Library from 2pm-3pm.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery this Saturday (April 27) from 10am to 11am at St Bride's Major church hall.

Nearly new sale

CYLCH Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr will hold a nearly new sale at

Llanllud Major Rugby Club this Saturday (April 27) between 10am-11.30am.

Baby and children's clothes, equipment, toys, maternity wear.

Family service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10am on Sunday April 28, on the theme of 'Who is Jesus?'

There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments are served afterwards. Creche facilities available. All are welcome – for more information visit www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk.

'A Life Worth Living' is a nine-week Bible study course, designed as a follow-on to the Alpha course.

All Saints Church is hosting the course on Wednesday evenings at 8pm. Participation is free. Contact Rebecca on 2070 9467 to register.

Bridgend Ramblers

BRIDGEND Ramblers have extended their programme with

the inclusion of twice-monthly Wednesday evening walks of four to five miles long.

They meet at Bridgend Recreation Centre car park and leave for the start point by 6.15pm.

The first walk will be on May 1 around Pyle – see website www.bridgendarblers.co.uk for the rest of the programme.

Big Welsh Walk

RAMBLERS Cymru will be organising a festival of walks to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Wales Coast Path.

The Ramblers' contribution will be a two mile stroll from Porthcawl's Rest Bay car park to Pink Bay and back on May 4. The walk is pushchair and wheelchair friendly.

Dads, grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters are also welcome, as are all interested walkers, leaving car park at 10.30am. Telephone 01656 772304 for details.

Art society

ON Thursday, May 2, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes artist Charlotte Leadbeater, who will give a mixed media still-life demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm). Visitors welcome. For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

The society is also holding an exhibition and sale of members' work at Swansea Grand Theatre (Levels 1 and 2), Singleton Street, Swansea from April 9-26. Opening times, 10am-9pm Monday to Saturday.

Thrift shop stays open!

"CONTRARY to rumours circulating, St Athan Thrift Shop in Woodpecker Square is NOT closing. Please inform all your friends that we are still trading as usual, so come and grab yourselves a bargain!" manager Barbara Green said this week.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjack lottery draw number D771.

- £2,000: 841928.
- The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not won this week.

- £10: 7 0 5 5 7 4 , 801526, 884249, 662770, 921815, 585231, 423642, 579310, 873067, 389725, 946854, 410386, 335097, 103280, 337174, 304645, 428113, 885207, 678227, 829300.
- £5: 541889, 392768, 263967, 163200, 113514, 543620, 573151, 832255, 850833, 562481, 534889, 583725, 511434, 432908, 654778, 136095, 500916, 931981, 396895, 738623, 187303, 873222, 640363, 196134, 762752.

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OBLIVION IS A GOOD-LOOKING, PREDICTABLE, BLOCKBUSTER EFFORT

LOVE him or loathe him, you cannot argue with Tom Cruise's success: the actor may have hit the big 5-0, but his status as one of Hollywood's favourite leading men shows no sign of abating.

His latest film, *Oblivion*, is set in the future and sees him play Jack Harper, a man assigned to help extract Earth's remaining resources, after the world has been decimated by an alien attack.

However, when Jack is attacked and kidnapped by a mysterious man named Beech (played by Morgan Freeman), he is forced to question what he knows about his mission and himself; a situation complicated by a woman named Julia (Olga Kurylenko), who may be more linked to Jack than even he knows...

While the presence of Tom Cruise is certainly impressive, one of the biggest pulls of *Oblivion* is the fact that it is the second directorial outing for Joseph Kosinski, whose debut, *Tron*:

Legacy, may have underwhelmed a little at the box office, but certainly delivered on visual-spectacle.

Kosinski's follow-up follows the lead of his debut feature in being visually impressive and well handled, but, yet again, he is let down by a story that is a little too clichéd and predictable, making *Oblivion* a satisfying piece of work that does what you would expect of it and nothing more.

As you might expect, Kosinski takes the concept of a future where Earth has been decimated and wrings the most out of it; the destroyed planet filled with little Easter eggs like the Statue of Liberty's torch or the Empire State Building which, while hardly original, are pleasing touches.

The real style comes in the shape of his marshalling of the special effects, which are flawlessly done, and while the film is a glossy one, it also works very well visually.

What works less well is a story that feels all too familiar.

Starting off a bit like *Wall-E* (with that robot's height comparable with that of Mr Cruise's), it



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

actress finds some humanity in.

While Morgan Freeman coasts by more or less playing himself, it's left to Olga Kurylenko to show how it's not done – the model-turned-actress rather poor in a role that doesn't actually ask that much of her, and, amidst the futuristic steel, Kurylenko is decidedly wooden.

Her performance aside there isn't very much to dislike about *Oblivion*, but apart from Kosinski's visual sense, there isn't very much to really love about it either; it's a by-the-numbers sci-fi film that delivers entertainment – but little else.

VERDICT: A satisfying film that will keep you engaged for its running time, *Oblivion* delivers what you would want it to. Joseph

Kosinski's direction is well done, but married to a predictable script and average performances, means its futuristic gleam gives way to overfamiliarity. *Average.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Matrix* (1999), *Tron: Legacy* (2010).

A GARDEN created by Bridgend students was awarded the silver medal at this year's Royal Horticultural Flower Show in Cardiff – building on their bronze medal result, in 2012.

A show spokeswoman explained: "The students worked tirelessly to bring their garden 'Discover the Heart of Wales' to life, inspired by the Arriva Trains 'Heart of Wales' line, the garden represented the journey from an urban environment to a hilly, secluded woodland landscape."

"This is a garden of two halves: the foreground is made up of paved avenues of straight lines and city features – such as (horticultural) litter, writing, traffic lights and buildings.

"However, the landscape changes, and paved paths are replaced by a wild area and a meandering footpath leading visitors away from the straight lines of a city lifestyle and into a curved haven of tranquility."

Bridgend College



ABOVE:
The college students' 'Discover the Heart of Wales' garden.

tutor Derek Cashmore said: "The concept of using the RHS Flower Show as the focus of teaching and inspiring student design ideas has allowed student creativity, entrepreneurship and team work to flourish.

"When the students were first informed of the task ahead, they were filled with anxiety and exhilaration, as they had never done anything like it before, but were looking forward to taking on this challenge.

"We are delighted that the students' hard work has been rewarded".

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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To write a Will for only £50 and help life-limited children in Wales, please visit www.tyhafan.org/will50 or call 029 2053 2270 for more information.

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RHS show was a family affair!

Photos by Heather March



THE Royal Horticultural Show in Cardiff had a real buzz this year.

There were many attractions for all the family, including stilt walkers dressed as plants and the Schools Wheelbarrow Competition.

Pictured (above, left) is the entry from Llangan School with two of the proud pupils.

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Dads aiming to reach their peaks for charity

A GROUP of Ty Hafan dads have signed up for one of the most popular fundraising events of the year – the GE Aviation Wales Welsh3peaks Challenge.

Taking place on Saturday June 15, eight dads will join around 80 teams to tackle the highest peaks in north, mid and south Wales within 15 hours to raise vital funds for Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

The annual event has raised more than £1.25m over the last 14 years – and has seen more than 5,000 people travel from as far as Germany, France and Scotland to take part.

Angelo Pucella from Bridgend is dad to six-year-old Luca, who was referred to Ty Hafan in 2010. Luca is the only person in Wales to suffer from a rare condition called ROHHAD syndrome.

Angelo, a teacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, said this will be the first time he has taken on the challenge.

"I wanted to help as Ty Hafan has been the only place where I've been able to talk about Luca's condition and he really loves it there. As soon as he gets through the doors, he is running around and everyone knows when he's arrived!"

Matthew Davies' two-year-old son, Riley, suffers from Interstitial lung disease and was referred to Ty Hafan late last year. Matthew, of Maesteg, signed up straight away for the event and his partner, Kat, will also be taking part in the charity's Midnight Sleepwalk event next month.

"We want to help in any way we can as we know first-hand what a difference Ty Hafan makes to families," said Matthew.

Paul Fisher, a Ty Hafan play worker, who will be leading the teams on the day, said: "This is a great way to



ABOVE: "Come on, dad, you can do it!"

get some of the dads together to share their family situations and have fun together.

"Dads can be less able to air their emotions and feelings so getting a group of them to take part in this event is a way to give them that opportunity."

• All team sponsorship raised from events helps Ty Hafan to continue offering comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales.

If you would like to register a team, visit www.welsh3peaks.co.uk or contact 029 20 532199 for more information.

For the less adventurous ladies, there is the six-mile Midnight Sleep Walk taking place on Friday, May 10. Register online at www.midnight-sleepwalk.co.uk

TRACTOR RUN RAISES £1,100 FOR MARIE CURIE CHARITY



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT. Pictures can be purchased by contacting: e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk telephone 07791 228684. Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



THE Tractor Boys of Aberthín, in association with the Blacksmith Arms, Llanmaes, have raised over £1,100 as a result of their charity Tractor Run on Sunday, April 14.

More than 40 tractors left Arthur John's yard in Cowbridge at around 10.30am, on (thankfully) what proved to be a dry, but windy day.

Led by route master Jeff Webb, the procession headed for Penllyn Estate, travelling through the farm and onto Moorlands Road before heading to Aberthín, then up and over Cowbridge Common to St Hilary.

From there, passage was made down to Tre-Guff and onto Penmarl before progressing to Rhoose.

Here, the old road was taken past the Blue Anchor Inn, before briefly joining the main road and then diverting to Fontygary, past the ruins of the Old Boys Club Camp.

The tractors then took

in the old village of St Athan before finally stopping at the Blacksmiths Arms.

Here, refreshment and food were provided by hosts Jackie and Mike, who generously presented £225 to the fundraising event.

A further £250 was raised by a raffle, and the highlight of the day was the auction of 205 litres of fuel conducted by Andrew RT Davies AM. The winning bid of £160 was made by Martin Huish, of Aberthín.

The worthwhile beneficiaries of this fundraising event are the Marie Curie hospice, at Penarth.

Many thanks to The Blacksmiths Arms for their hospitality, the John family for the use of their yard, Oi! 4 Wales who provided the 205 litres of diesel, Andrew RT Davies for supporting the event, and to all those Tractor Boys who took part and helped to make the day such a great success.

MH



Stagecoach Theatre young stars perform to a sell-out audience



*The students on stage.
PHOTO by K J STANBURY*

ON Saturday, April 20, students from Stagecoach Theatre Arts performed to a sell-out crowd in 'An Evening of Movies and Musicals' at St David's Hall.

The concert, in support of the Stroke Association, was compered by Jamie Owen (BBC Wales) and featured an incredible line-up of musical theatre stars, including Ruthie Henshall, John Owen Jones and Nathan James.

The Stagecoach choir of students sang with a professional 100-piece orchestra, conducted by Matthew J Hampson, to tumultuous applause.

Stagecoach schools run locally in Bridgend and The Vale, teaching children aged three to 18 drama, dance and singing. Call 01446 781454, or visit www.stagecoach.co.uk

'REMARKABLE WORK' AT THE MARIE CURIE HOSPICE WINS PRAISE

REGIONAL
Conservative AM, Andrew RT Davies, was given a tour last week of the impressive refurbishment at the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth, by manager Karen Stephens.

During the upgrade, services had been transferred to Velindre Hospital for a period, but the facilities are now up and running once again and Mr Davies, who lives in the Vale, said that the transformation had been "remark-

able". I was fortunate enough to visit the hospice before the refurbishment began to discuss the plans – and to see the end product last week was excellent," he commented.

"We should never forget the wonderful work that the team do in delivering a high quality of life for terminally-ill patients.

"These improvements in the hospice will ensure that those patients are able to enjoy an environment which gives them privacy, dignity and comfort."



Conservative opposition leader in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, is pictured with the Marie Curie hospice manager, Karen Stephens.

We are now on Twitter – follow us at @gem_news

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS NEWS Water mills, castles, dark caves – and a burial chamber!

THE morning was dry when Sue, Mary and Gareth joined Joy at Barry Waterfront before the journey down to Gower, which was dogged by heavy downpours – but not to be defeated, they set off in light drizzle.

This was the first of a series of walks with the theme of caves and the 10-mile trek included two ancient water mills, three ruined castles, two river crossings, the stunning Oxwich Bay, woodland, dunes, a burial chamber and of course a cave!

From Parc le Breos, a deer park which originally covered 2,000-acres and was used for hunting, they passed the watermill at Parkmill, where local farmers who brought their corn for grinding had to pay a toll to the estate – and if they failed or refused they were taken to court.

The lovely Pennard Pill valley below the stark craggy remains of Pennard Castle led them through the back of Three Cliffs Bay, followed by a climb and descent through narrow sandy paths, adorned with thousands of primroses.

Heading into a blustery wind, the group crossed Oxwich Bay as the rain stopped and it grew warmer as, journeying uphill to Penrice they gazed towards Oxwich Castle, where a magnificent Tudor mansion was created by Sir Rice and Edward Mansel on the headland above the bay.

By 1632, Oxwich was leased out as a residence as the Mansel family moved to their Margam estate and the castle fell into disrepair, finally rescued from demolition in 1949 and

being donated to the state.

Lunch was enjoyed at St Andrew's Church at Penrice village, before the group moved on past the ruins of their second water mill to enter the Penrice estate. First owned by the Norman de Penrice family before the Mansel and Talbot family, in the 1770s, Thomas Mansel Talbot who had spent much time in Italy landscaped the park with walks, lakes and gardens which can still be seen today.

Reaching the 186-metre Cefn Bryn, common land where farmers are allowed to graze horses, sheep and cattle, the group were glad to descend again from the blustery wind as they returned to Parc le Breos cwm to climb up onto a rock platform and enter Cathole Cave through a triangular opening.

Excavations discovered a Bronze Age axe, two human skeletons, pottery from burial urns and other vessels and bones relating to red fox, arctic fox, brown bear, mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, red deer and giant deer which give some indications of the climate changes, now the cave is inhabited by bats.

There was time to examine the stone remains of the cromlech on the valley floor, which was discovered by workmen in 1869 while digging for road stone, and which held human bones relating to up to 40 people.

On April 27, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk in the Pontneddfechan area; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156 or Rachel on 01446 410545.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102. JOY STRANGWARD

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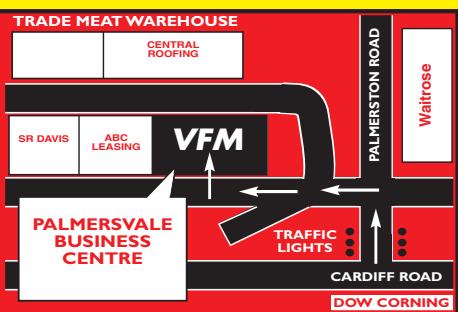
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'Shattered but so pleased...' – SAYS MP AFTER MARATHON EFFORT

MP Alun Cairns raised more than £2,000 for Barry Age Concern and the local RNLI after completing Sunday's London Marathon in a personal best time of 3 hours and 39 minutes.

The Vale MP was one of six MPs among the 30,000 runners on the 26.2 mile course around London's streets.

"This was my second London Marathon, and though very tiring it was once again a fantastic experience, the most important being the money for Age Concern and the RNLI.

"When I finished, I was shattered but so pleased. I managed to improve on my first marathon attempt by some 25 minutes.

"The really emotional and inspirational stories of so many runners, and the fantastic support from the crowds, make it a truly memorable occasion," he said.

"I have worked with these charities over the years and the Senior Health Shop and the Friends & Neighbours



ABOVE: London Marathon runner Alun Cairns MP and son Henri.

group do so much in helping older people maintain as much independence as possible. Barry RNLI provide a terrific life-saving service for residents of Barry and visitors alike, 365 days a year.

"The money I raise by completing the London Marathon will go towards supporting the services offered at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road Barry – and will help boost the funds for the new pontoon at the RNLI Barry Docks lifeboat station, log on to www.virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairnsmp.

OF SHIPS AND MEN AT BARRY DOCKS...

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week was John Wilmot, who went to sea in the 1950s – starting as a 5th engineer on the Liberty Ship *St Arvans*, before rising to chief electrician on the passenger liner *Paraguay Star*, sailing between Argentina and London every six weeks.

When he came ashore, he was employed as a gas control engineer with British Gas.

He never lost his love of the sea and ships, and took numerous photographs of the ships which have used Barry Docks for the last 30 years.

The first photographs he showed were of Barry soon after its heydays of the early 20th Century, when it was the largest exporter of coal in the world, with the record shipment of 13 million

tons in a year. It was said you could cross the dock from one side to the other on all the ships moored up!

The photographs of 1925 showed a different story, with many ships in the docks, but lacking any action, and he explained the photographs were probably taken during one of the strikes.

In the 1950s numerous ships were laid up in the docks, waiting to be scrapped. He recalled one of them was the SS *Saint David*, who donated its ship's bell to the 6th Barry Sea Scout Group, and which is still in their headquarters.

As the coal trade declined, and the steam ships no longer visited Barry, John's main record of ships visiting Barry was contained in his photographs.

The No 2 dock had numerous ships moored there. The photographs not only showed the ships, but plotted the change of the facilities at the docks, as the various cranes, disappeared over the years, finally to be replaced by mobile cranes.

These were just brought in for a particular ship or cargo. Today, one is lucky to see any ship in this once thriving port.

The Barry Men's Forum goes on its summer outing in May to a motor museum, and will not be resuming its weekly meetings until the beginning of October.

PMW

CAR BOOT SUCCESS

THE inaugural Romilly School car boot sale, on Sunday April 14 was a fantastic success with great support from parents, and the public.

There were a large number of stalls and refreshments available in the main dining hall. All money raised will go toward improving school facilities for the children. The next one is planned for May 12 with stall tickets available shortly from the school office.

Kay is the Vale's new fostering ambassador

VALE residents are being urged to 'take the first step to fostering today', as the Vale Council launches a campaign to recruit more foster carers.

The campaign, entitled 'A Vale Child Needs Vale Foster Carers', aims to keep foster children in the Vale, rather than finding placements in other counties and as part of the campaign, the council has appointed one of its foster carers, Kay Griffiths MBE, as a fostering ambassador for the county.

Kay said: "My husband David and I made that call to fostering services more than 35 years ago and have never once regretted it. Every child deserves the chance to have a happy and fulfilled life and some children are not able to live with their own families for all sorts of different reasons.

"Foster care has a huge impact on a child, whether it's for a few weeks or for years.

"As a foster carer, you have the opportunity to give a child happy memories for a lifetime, no matter what has happened before, or what may happen later in their lives. For my husband and I, it has been a privilege. So I urge any-

one who has been thinking of becoming a foster carer to take that first step to fostering today by calling the council's fostering team."

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "I warmly welcome the appointment of Kay Griffiths MBE as the fostering ambassador for the Vale of Glamorgan. Her commitment over the last 35 years to fostering children is incredible and I know she will be a wonderful ambassador for the county.

"When a child moves into foster care outside their own county, they leave their family, their friends, their school and their support network.

"The Vale Council strives to make sure that doesn't happen, because we believe that a Vale child needs a Vale child."

The Vale Council's fostering team welcomes applications from people from all walks of life, whether you are interested in providing foster care for respite, emergency, short-term or long-term placements.

Contact the fostering team on 01446 729 600, email fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk to fill in our online form.

Vale cabinet's site visit to Sports Centre

A REPORT which examines the future use of Colcot Sports Centre, has been considered by the Vale Council cabinet.

Dogs banned on five beaches

FROM May 1 until September 30, residents and visitors to the Vale are reminded that dogs are banned from using Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth beaches, the Vale Council warned this week.

"A by-law exists to protect bathers, ensuring their safety during the months that beaches have most visitors.

"It is an offence to bring a dog on any beach where the ban is enforced. If caught, you could face a fine of up to £500," a spokesperson said.

The report suggested that a bid could be submitted to the Barry Regeneration Partnership project development fund for £20k in 2013-14 for a feasibility study – to identify a range of possible future uses for the centre in consultation with the local community – and that following the study, a steering group involving stakeholders be formed to develop long term proposals for use.

DECISION DEFERRED

The cabinet decided to defer decisions on the funding and steering group until after a site visit had gone ahead.

It did agree that basic improvements could be carried out for benefit of current users and to protect the building from weather damage.

The cabinet also gave the go-ahead for 12-month extension leases for Cylch Bethesda Playgroup and Wendy Summerell's School of Dance to carry on their work.

NURSE'S PLEA TO PARENTS...

'Measles made me deaf, so get your child vaccinated!'

A NURSE who caught measles when she was two years old – and who became deaf as a result – is urging parents to "get the MMR jab".



Ursula at the London Olympics 2012, where she was a medical volunteer.

yes there is.

"I was immediately referred to HR and Occupational Health for tests and was given a hearing-aid.

"My hearing continued to get progressively worse, but now I have two digital hearing aids.

"They are amazing; I can now hear things I've never heard before – especially low level sounds.

"At home I thought my husband was having an asthma attack, but in fact he was just breathing; I'd never heard breathing before!"

"Let your children have the MMR. I can see why parents might be concerned but the evidence says the MMR is safe."

"I had my son vaccinated and he is now in his early 20s with no ill effects. I don't know any colleague who hasn't had their children vaccinated with the MMR."

"I can assure parents if there was a problem we would be the first to say no."

"Measles isn't nothing. I'm deaf because of measles and some people have died because of it."

"Please get your children vaccinated so they don't go through what I and others have gone through."

Call for local schools to host MMR sessions

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

SCHOOLS in the Vale are being asked to host measles vaccination sessions – to stop the disease spreading any further.

thing we can to stop the measles outbreak spreading to the Vale, and we are asking all the secondary schools in our area to help the health board organise vaccination sessions.

"If parents have children who are not fully vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella, they can make arrangements with their doctor's surgery for them to be vaccinated."

"We hope school vaccination sessions will help us to protect children who are still not vaccinated, and that parents will sign the consent forms needed to have their youngsters protected against MMR."

"With more than 800 cases of measles in the Swansea area, we are asking parents of our schoolchildren to support the vaccination programme and help us to keep measles out of Vale schools."

"Parents of school children identified as needing vaccination, will receive letters and consent forms over the coming weeks."

Roadworks

TEMPORARY traffic control – A48 Sycamore Cross (April 22-26), to allow for topsoil and grass seedling, sign maintenance and minor amendments to the central kerb island; Sully Moors Road and Lavernock Road, Sully; Beach Road, Llantwit Major; B4265 Llantwit Major bypass at Llanae Road traffic lights; B4267 Penlan Road at the junction with Dochdyw Road, Llandough.

Road closure – Clevedon Avenue, Sully; Lane to the rear of Kathleen Street and Lewis Street and the lane to the rear of numbers 29 to 38 Park Crescent.

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The 'King of Smuggling' who plied his trade along the Glamorgan coast...

PIRATES and smugglers were rife throughout the whole of the Glamorgan coast during the 18th Century.

Two infamous and ruthless individuals were William Arthur and Thomas Knight who set up their control centre on Barry Island.

They plagued the shores, and Knight, a notorious smuggler, built barricades around the island to isolate his base so that his fleet of ships (which were heavily armed) created fear amongst locals.

He would charge along the Bristol Channel to destinations such as the Channel Islands, where alcohol and tobacco were looted as they were considered to be luxury items at the time. He also acquired soap from Ireland.

Knight is documented at his stronghold in Barry in 1783 as travelling to other destinations beyond our shores on his ship the John O'Combe, equipped with a vast quantity of armoury and 60 to 70 strong crew.

He managed to outwit the customs authorities, and gain respect from local people probably because he could sell on

his wares amongst them.

Because of this, he adopted the nickname 'The King of Smuggling'.

Knight's reign was short-lived, however, because in 1785, the authorities managed to outwit him, and he fled to Lundy Island. He is said to have died there a very wealthy man.

Islands are undoubtedly visible from the mainland in clear weather, and this notorious trade could be seen in full view during the hours of daylight.

Although the customs authorities were aware of wrongdoing around the shorelines, they were powerless to halt it, as they did not have a boat to journey across the water at the beginning of this scandalous trade.

Flat Holm Island in the middle of the Bristol Channel, was ideal for illicit smuggling.

This unlawful industry became rife during the 18th Century, and it is thought that an old mine shaft on the northern side of the island was an ideal base for smugglers to hoard their loot from both England and Wales.

A small cave on the eastern side had natural tunnels giving easy access to the sea.

SPOOKY TALES... by Hayley Williams

This cave in the eastern cliff became a storage point for contraband, kegs of brandy and tea.

In fact, a local writer in 1902 commented that: "The men are still living who claimed to have seen (the cave) filled with that which had never paid the Queen's dues."

It is doubtful that the author of this observation visited the island as the cave has the characteristics of being too small for human activity, and a large amount of loot would barely fit into such a confined chamber.

However, smuggling probably did exist on the island because the old mine shaft was littered with tunnels, and the exit was disguised as solid rock.

There were many more haunts for this illegal trade along the coast - including Sully, Swanbridge, Cadoxton-juxta Barry, Penarth Head, Aberthaw, Llanwit Major, Nash Point, Dunraven, Southerndown and Porthcawl. Other infamous Welsh pirates or

smugglers operating along the Glamorgan coast who spread fear throughout communities were Modryb Sina (Aun Sina) Howel Davies, Black Bart Roberts, Bartholomew, Colin Dolphyne and Jack Callis.

But during the latter part of 18th Century, the trade had petered out, and many believe the customs authorities had tightened their grip on a coastline littered with such rogues. Our coast has seen its fair share of illegal scoundrels, and because of their deeds, it would seem inevitable that tales of their ghosts plague our shores.

Chilling screams have been heard, bellowing out across the seas pitifully shouting for help, which could only have fallen upon deaf ears from a bygone era, when looters gleefully watched the harrowing ordeal of innocent sailors drowning in the cruel sea.

Could these haunting sounds be from restless seaman walking the coastline in search of help, or just a mass figment of the imagination?

At Kymion House in Penarth, the ghostly figure of an 18th Century pirate is reported to reside. He seems to enjoy remaining to the earth's plane, scaring

people with his rebellious dress and brutal-looking face.

But who could this mutinous man be, and why does haunting in this way give him satisfaction? On the distant seas towards Sker rocks in Porthcawl, a ghostly ship has been seen mirroring white mist around it, particularly on stormy nights, when mysterious church bells will distinctly ring out.

Could these scary happenings be a re-enactment of a ship lost to treacherous seas when the bells would ring out, warning its people of disaster?

At Barry Island, the ghost of a local pirate is said to haunt the entire area, patrolling the coast as if trying to protect inhabitants from foreign invaders.

Could this be the ghost of a local hero called Benedict y Diffodwr, whose ship was attacked by Spanish pirates, or another outlaw whose fate remains unknown?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

I would dearly like to thank Mr W E Dunn who has sent me valuable information to enhance my writing.

hayley.williams550@yahoo.co.uk

Two-try hero Alex wings in with £3,000 boots for auction

RIGHT:
Rhydian with
Alex Cuthbert
at the hospice

TOP Welsh try-scorer Alex Cuthbert visited Ty Hafan hospice recently - to drop off the rugby boots he auctioned (via Twitter) for the charity.



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NFU TALK FOR LOCAL FARMERS

ADAM QUINNEY, NFU vice-president, will be guest speaker at the Glamorgan NFU Cymru annual conference on May 14.

Starting at 6pm, the meeting will be held on Ty Tanglwyd farm, by permission of John Louther and his family, followed by a barbecue.

Adam Quinney will give his view on the current situation of the agricultural industry and future challenges and opportunities facing farmers.

He farms 250 hectares of rented land at Sambourne, near Redditch on the Worcestershire-Warwickshire border.

Stephen James, NFU Cymru deputy president will also provide an NFU Cymru update.

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GREAT ATMOSPHERE AT PYLE POINT-TO-POINT MEET AS TUDOR REIGNS SUPREME



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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE Llangeinor Hunt held their annual point-to-point races for the first time at the Dunraven Stud, Llanmihangel Farm near Pyle, and a huge crowd made for a carnival atmosphere.

Nine point-to-point races plus three pony races were decided during the long sunny afternoon and former national champion point-to-point rider, James Tudor from Cowbridge, came away with a four-timer.

He was successful on Tiger Rag (Members), The Snail (Men's Open), Lennie Da Lion (Restricted Division 1) and Howya Buddy (Aged Maiden).

Tiger Rag and The Snail, former inmates of Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard, gave Tudor's cousin, Jonathan Tudor, a former successful amateur himself, his first double as a trainer.

Tiger Rag scored by eight lengths from Carrick Oscar and The Snail won by three lengths from Ben's Folly.

Howya Buddy, who looked like romping home at the Ystrad Taf Fechan a week earlier only to fall three fences from the finish, brushed through the fences to win by a distance from Karazaaf.

Owner/trainer David Brace OBE, who owns the land the races are held on, after a couple of early reversals, had a hat-trick with Spirit Of Barbados (Ladies' Open), Lennie Da Lion and Respectueux (Restricted Division Two).

Spirit Of Barbados, who used to be trained by David Pipe, was given a cracking ride by Charlotte Prichard, who led her two rivals a merry dance and went on to win by two lengths from the odds-on Fair Point, a winner of its three previous races.

Lennie Da Lion, who just got home by a neck from the favourite Always Archie, broke down when pulling up and Respectueux was awarded the race when it was discovered that No Reason Why, ridden by Rachel Leyshon, who had passed the winning post in first place, had lost its weight cloth during the race.

Eric Clough's Pathian Prince won the confined under Wayne Maskill and Steve Hadley's homebred Drombeg West, a 10-1 chance, partnered by Alan Johns, took the first division of the Young Horse Maiden.

Former rider Luke Price saddled his tenth winner of the season when Neville Thomas's Second Alliance, a 12-1 shot, ridden by Nick Williams, won by 20 lengths from of DontTellMeThat in the second division of the Young Horse Maiden.

Many racegoers watched the racing from a big screen that had been specially installed on the course and although the riders gave the course full marks, some racegoers complained that the viewing facilities were poor.

However, all new racecourses have teething problems and no doubt if anything can be done to improve the viewing, the hunt will pull out all the stops in time for next year.

BRIAN LEE

PENARTH LIONS ROAR IN DISTRICT TOURNAMENT



ON April 7, Penarth RFC under-10s entered the district tournament at Pentrech RFC with the hope of retaining their title of district champions from the previous season.

The Penarth Tigers were drawn in a tough pool alongside Rummey, Pentrech and Rhiwbia. All

players stepped up and put in a wholehearted effort against three very strong sides but sadly were unable to overcome their counterparts.

The Penarth Lions were drawn in a pool alongside Barry Atoms, St Peters and Llandaff North.

After two rusty yet comfortable victories in the first two games, the boys finally regained their focus and put on a show of the fine rugby that we have been accustomed to and the final game resulted in a resounding victory for Penarth putting them top of their pool.

Llanishen were the opponents for the quarter final and the match was, as expected, a spectacle of fantastic running rugby from both sides and was a close encounter throughout the majority of the game.

Penarth, however, stepped up a gear in the final stages to score two more tries which resulted in a 21-7 victory for Penarth.

They then progressed to the semi-final against Llandaff, a side very similar to Penarth. This again proved the case with an outstanding game from either side.

With a final scoreline of 14-14, six minutes of extra time was to be played in which a 'golden try' would prove victorious.

In the dying minutes of the game, Penarth called a move which saw them score in the corner to win the game in magnificent style.

This put them into the final against a very fine CRICC side. Another fine display was put on by two very good sides and again the scores were tied at 14-14 at full time, which resulted in another two periods of extra time for the Penarth boys.

Another great effort saw them score in the corner once again to clinch the match and the tournament for the second year in a row. Full credit must go to the entire squad on a yet another fantastic performance.

Well done to every player and a big thank you from the coaches, George, Ed and Derick, on a very fine performance.

EJM

FIVE Scout leaders from across the Vale were able to advance their love of archery when they attended the final assessment session of the archery GB level 1 coaching course.

The course started back in February with attendance at three full day tuition sessions learning the theory and practicalities of coaching beginners in the sport.

Along with modular written assessments, candidates had to complete their own log of supported learning, assisting in coaching beginners and 'have a go' archery sessions for a minimum of 12 hours under the supervision of a senior coach.

The final assessment day was a little nerve racking, being observed by senior coaches from Archery GB and not knowing what style of coaching was going to be required. We had to prepare written coaching plans for both 'Bearbow' and 'Freestyle' recurve archery, and deliver a 45 minute session on either one chosen by the assessor," said Simon Miskin.

"Next, we undertook a professional interview which included questions on the theory and practise of archery and our own experience of the sport."

Richard Watson and Dave Simm, both Cub leaders at the 1st Cowbridge Group, Wyn Gower Scout leader at 1st St Athan, Steve Taylor, Scout leader at 4th Barry and Simon

Miskin, District Commissioner for the Vale District, were all successful in achieving the first 4sport Level 1 award in coaching archery.

The other candidates came from Pembrey and Newport and had similar success; we shall probably meet them again at an archery tournament somewhere.

Thanks to funding from the Vale of Glamorgan Community Chest grant, we were able to send people on this course, because of the curiosity and uptake in the sport due to the popularity of last year's Olympics. We are now able to deliver more sessions to more young people," explained Simon.

The assessment took place at St Richard Gwyn RC High School in Barry, the home of Caerau Dragons Bowmen Archery Club where there are facilities for shooting both indoor and outdoor ranges, weather permitting."

Apart from being adult volunteers for Scouting, Wyn, Steve and Simon are also members of the club and so will be able to pass on their knowledge to beginners there as well.

"A big thank you to the excellent behaviour of the six Cub Scouts from 1st St Athan who were pupils for the morning sessions and to family members of the candidates who volunteered for the afternoon," Simon added.

Simon Miskin, District Commissioner Vale District

THE Vale Reds Disability Football team have again tasted success on the field by winning another two Pan Disability tournaments in the last three weeks.

The club attended the Special Olympic tournament on April 7 where they came up against sides from south and west Wales.

Having been entered into the Premiership ability group they came away with enough wins to win the group by one point and take the trophy.

The group was very hard and physical and it was the first time the team had played at that standard; they are now looking forward to the next Special Olympic festival in September where they hope to enter two teams.

Last Sunday it was back to the South East Pan Disability Festival at the Gol in Cardiff, and again the teams rose to the task and came through a very hard match against

Cardiff City.

They were winning 2-0 at half time but the Vale Reds were not out yet and rallied to finally win the game 2-4. With the team being cheered on by our shin sponsors, Mooneerams Solicitors, they went on to win comfortably against Race and Pont Dragons A.

The Vale Reds' second side had a mixed day at the festival, winning two games out of four, but again showed that they are improving in their game. The coaches would like to thank all the players for giving 100 per cent to the matches as it was a long day for everyone.

The club are currently looking for players with a disability from the age of eight to adult to join the club; we train on a Wednesday night from 7pm, and if you are interested please call Neil on 07827 334818 or visit the Vale Reds website at: valeredsdisability.btck.co.uk.

NL



St Andrews Major juniors have reason to celebrate.

Local juniors make a fine start to the golfing season

ST ANDREWS MAJOR Golf Club had excellent news recently when the junior section were awarded Junior Golf Accreditation status by Golf Development Wales.

The award recognises the club's commitment to junior golf and ensures that coaching, organised events and child welfare are of the very highest standard.

The introduction of the development squad last year has given juniors the opportunity to play with other youngsters at the same level. Competitions are played over nine holes with juniors of a similar handicap.

Club captain, John Lock, stated that the hard work, effort and enthusiasm put in by junior organiser Stephen Thomas and club professional John Hastings has paid dividends with both the junior squad and the development squad.

The juniors got their season off to a flying start by winning the qualifying event of the Shelter Cymru Welsh junior team event.

Despite the freezing conditions, wind and even some snow, the team consisting of Jordan Taylor (captain), Daniel Thomas and Daniel Williams held off a very

strong challenge from the 16 other teams taking part.

They will now go on to represent their club at the final in Llandrindod Wells at the end of May.

Junior organiser Stephen Thomas, said: "The Junior Golf Accreditation award recognises the hard work

and commitment of our squad."

The junior section at St Andrews Major are currently looking for new members. For more details, email samjuniors@hotmail.co.uk or contact the junior organiser, Stephen Thomas on 07595 293079.

Glamorgan county

Cowbridge under-10s get a helping hand!



"Three cheers for Waitrose"

BOYS from Cowbridge under-10s rugby squad turned out in their match kit to thank Waitrose and their customers for their support, as part of the store's 'Community Matters' scheme.

The team are travelling to take part in a busy weekend of rugby – at the floodlit rugby tourna-

ment in Esher in Surrey on the Friday evening, and then will take part in the largest mini rugby festival in the UK, at London Irish ARFC on April 28 at London Irish ARFC's Sunbury home.

Waitrose partners chose to support the under-10s in their green token 'Community Matters' scheme following a request from the squad. The sum raised will help with funding the costs for this special weekend 'tour' for the boys.

For the second consecutive year, the team will represent Cowbridge

UK's fastest cyclist is back

THE man who last year beat Chris Boardman's 1993 national competition record for 25 miles, is back in the Neath Valley this Sunday, April 28 to defend his title and attempt to go faster than that 45 minutes 46 seconds which would take him over the 33 mph mark.

The first class field assembled by Ogmore Valley Wheelers for this early season opener, the Carl Roach Memorial Time Trial, includes Dr Michael Hutchinson (In-Gear-Quickvit-Trainsharp RT), a famous cycling journalist and writer of an entertaining few pages every week in the national magazine Cycling Weekly about amateur cycling in the UK.

He starts last man at 10am on Sunday from Rhigos village and the course joins the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, west to Abergavenny and back to a Glynneath finish.

His national competitors are team

mates Matt Bottrill (46.47) and Mark Holton (48.07), both of Best Welsh competitors are young flier Keiron Davies of Bynea CC (49.27) and Justin Cannon, RAF CC (48.36).

The field should be faster than might have been expected because the cold start to the year has affected road training, some riders preferring to wait until later in the year to kick off their season.

Nevertheless, the fast course has attracted almost 120 riders from Guernsey and all parts of the UK; only 25 per cent are based in Wales.

Bridgend-based Ogmore Valley Wheelers organiser Tim Raine of Treo said: "We are pleased to welcome such a strong group of cyclists here and the family of Carl Roach from Maesteg will be at the prize-giving ceremony."

"Spectators will be very welcome both on the course from 8am and to give support for the winners at the Rhigos Sports Hall at 11.30am."

Octogenarian Viv recalls golden years at Llantwit

LAST Saturday and Sunday I once again ventured up to Llantwit Major. Rugby Club and (as I often do) I had an enlightening chat with one of Llantwit's most respected former players, Viv Griffiths.

With plans afoot to host a special Silver Ball success 50th anniversary reunion in recognition of Llantwit Major RFC's finest achievement, it was the main topic of our conversation.

Viv played on the wing for Llantwit and Bridgend and at centre for Pontypridd – playing his first game for Llantwit in 1954, when they were short of a player, having been a useful soccer player up to then.

Viv captained Llantwit in 1959 and 1963, but had the misfortune to miss out on both Silver Ball finals, the first having pulled a hamstring in the semi-final; and the second having suffered a more serious broken leg in the February.

After his playing, he coached the youth for six years, initially on his own, until the late Billy Deere came on board to help.

Rather than write about the Silver Ball results and stats, which I feel should be published after the planned function on Sunday, May 5, I asked Viv about the group of players and the training they undertook.

The coach at the time was John L Thomas, a larger than life character who, sadly, is no longer

with us. John L was a PE teacher, a product of the renowned St Luke's College, Exeter, who along with Loughborough, were one of the strongest rugby sides in England, with a top class fixture list in the 60s-70s with Wales hooker Jeff Young

among many former students, including myself, by coincidence. In my era, we had the likes of Jeff Squire, Mike Rafter, Mike Slemen, Neil Bennet, Frank Wilson, Dai Butcher, John Scott...the list could go on.

The point to be made is that you had to be really fit and John L instilled this in the Llantwit team, some of whom were naturally fit anyway, being farmers.

I asked Viv about some of the players: He said they were a truly great side, with some outstanding individuals.

Jeff Hill and Billy Miles vied for the fullback spot.

Billy Miles played in the first semifinal against Glynneath, who had won the competition the previous three years, and actually touched down three times, only to be recalled for a forward pass on each occasion.

Jeff Hill was a fast runner, a very good soccer player; wing Noel Thomas was a hard player equally at home at flanker; while Russell Jenkins on the other wing also played for Bridgend.

Centres he remembered were the powerful John Fletcher ex-

Llantwit, who attracted Rugby League scouts at the time and was offered a substantial sum to go north; alongside him was Dai Llewellyn, a chemical engineer at Aberthaw.

The player who ran the show for Llantwit was outside half Doug Vizard, who hailed from a famous footballing family. Doug was truly a class act with tremendous vision and a great boot, despite being only eight stone soaking wet – yet able to drop a goal from half way, as hooker Neil Thomas put it at the time.

Doug played top class rugby for Penarth and I am really looking forward to meeting him next Sunday week along with Billy Miles, who is travelling down from Manchester.

There was scrum half Terry Lewis, good service, great awareness and like his brother, Gwilym, super fit. Viv remembers Terry scoring the winning try in the semifinal against Cardiff Athletic.

At prop, Henry Burford a youth product formed a formidable front row alongside hooker Neil 'Punchy' Thomas, a real character, local farmer who everyone liked – and Peter Williams, who played for Newport on the flank on several occasions.

One story about Neil recounts his habit of turning up a bit late for training; being a farmer, of course, he was naturally fit, and whenever John L was not looking he would skive off with his no-nonsense tackling.

No.8 was Peter Weakley, who was remembered for his try-saving cover tackle against a former Welsh international winger in the game against Taibach.

No subs, of course, in those days and during one season, only 17 players turned out for the first team, quite a remarkable record for an incredible group of players who deserve the recognition coming their way.

DAVID GRIFFITHS instead of actually doing them.

Unfortunately,

Mervyn had not told his missus he had offered the place to Neil, and though Neil was given a bed, Viv had to sleep in the bath.

In the second row was John Maddox, vice captain, who actually started playing for Llantwit as a centre. He packed down alongside Mike Elias, another great bloke; unassuming, yet did his job.

Behind this front five,

Llantwit had a tremendous back row: Gwilym Lewis at blind side was a superfit workaholic, a great reader of the game, while openside was Rob Davies, hard as nails, who put the renowned Gary Samuel off his game with his no-nonsense tackling.

No.8 was Peter

Weakley, who was remembered for his try-

saving cover tackle

against a former Welsh

international winger in

the game against

Taibach.

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the recognition coming

their way.

DAVID GRIFFITHS

Barry Athletic captain Connor Bright lifts the Brian Riseborough Memorial Trophy, which was presented by chairman of the Vale Referee Society, Kevin Shaw.

Tynwydd FC captain Lewis Union lifts the Supporters' Cup, which was presented by the Mayor of Barry, Councillor Les Sword.

Sully Sports A captain Ben Jones lifts the Steve Jones Memorial Trophy, which was presented by Alan Smith.

Cogan Coronation captain Owen Lloyd received the Billy Butlin trophy from Vale of Glamorgan Association football league chairman, Tony Williams.

Girls get taste of futsal

The Vale Girls' under-12 football team recently competed in the South Wales Girls League Futsal Cup finishing a credible fourth place.

The event, which was run as a pilot

scheme to introduce girls into futsal

was 22 teams from across south Wales

compete in regional groups before a final event taking place in the new House of Sport in Cardiff.

The team played a total of 20 matches

in the competition, winning 13,

drawing three and losing just four and

coach Luke Williams was delighted

with his team's effort.

He commented: "The girls really enjoyed the futsal experience with the small sided game allowing for more creativity and touches of the ball."

The Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club is now recruiting for new players for the 2013-14 season. All abilities are welcome and the club currently boasts one of the largest girl's football clubs in south Wales with over 85 players playing each week. For more information please contact 07832 273688 or email: info@valegirlsfc.co.uk.

LW

PLENTY OF ACTION IN THE VALE CUP FINALS



THE VoG ALF league finals recently took place at Jenner Park stadium.

In the year seven final on Friday, April 12, Barry Athletic defeated Barry Town 3-2; the Athletic's goals came from Conor Bright, Jack Such and Jordan Jones (penalty), while Barry Town responded with goals from Lloyd Gunter and Luke Vowles.

Barry Athletic captain Connor Bright lifted the Brian Riseborough Memorial Trophy, which was presented by chairman of the Vale Referee Society, Kevin Shaw.

In the year eight final on Sunday, April 14 Llantwit Major A were edged out 3-1 by Sully Sports A and Sully Sports A captain Ben Jones lifted the Steve Jones Memorial Trophy, which was presented by Alan Smith, manager of the Cadoxton Imps year eight team who won the final last season.

The division 1 final, Supporters' Cup, on Sunday, April 14, saw Tynwydd FC run out 2-1 winners against Pro Copy Athletic; George

Pycroft and Lewis Union, from the spot, scored for Tynwydd while Anthony Randell scored for Pro Copy.

Tynwydd FC captain Lewis Union lifted the Supporters' Cup, which was presented by the Mayor of Barry, Leslie Sword.

The following week (April 21) saw Cadoxton Imps draw 3-3 with Cogan Coronation A in the year nine final after extra time; however Coronation won 5-4 on penalties, and captain Owen Lloyd received the Billy Butlin trophy from Vale of Glamorgan Association football league chairman, Tony Williams.

In the Premier Division ASRS Cup final on the same day, Cardiff Airport, with goals from Jermain Martin and Jamie Harris, beat Penarth Town 2-1, Penarth's goal coming from Ryan Williams.

Cardiff Airport captain Liam Davies lifted the ASRS Cup, which was presented by Wales' manager Chris Coleman.

MD

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS
Send us your sports reports, news and other items of interest - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Cowbridge under-14s defeat our English neighbours

COWBRIDGE under-14s hosted English club Marlow for the first time and defeated a brave side by 10 tries to nil, the final score 66-0.

The first 15 minutes of the game were evenly matched until the home side took advantage of a Marlow error, wing Dan Bunney pouncing on a loose ball to score in the corner.

A second try soon followed when full back Charlie Pegrum broke through the Marlow defence, beating a number of attempted tackles, to score under the posts.

The visitors fought back bravely but excellent tackling by Seán Davies, Oisín John and Rhys Beynon prevented them from crossing their opponent's line.

Two further tries from Dan Bunney and one from centre Joe Knott gave Cowbridge a 29-0 lead at halftime.

Cowbridge started the second half in determined fashion when second row Owain Jenkins stormed through the Marlow ranks, making 30 metres with a weaving run before being tackled on the visitors' 22.

ALAN DAVIES



The Vale Girls' under-12 football team recently competed in the South Wales Girls League Futsal Cup finishing a credible fourth place.

The event, which was run as a pilot scheme to introduce girls into futsal was 22 teams from across south Wales compete in regional groups before a final event taking place in the new House of Sport in Cardiff.

The team played a total of 20 matches in the competition, winning 13, drawing three and losing just four and coach Luke Williams was delighted

Cowbridge Under-12s prosper in tournament

LAST Sunday, Cowbridge under-12s came away victorious from a three team tournament at Nelson.

Nelson, the hosts, first played Llantwit Fadre and beat them 35-20. After being able to watch the first game of the tournament, Cowbridge knew they had two difficult games to play back to back.

Nelson were first up. In a tough encounter, Cowbridge managed a good win 5-0. During the first five minutes of the first half Cowbridge were camped in the Nelson 22, but could not string a number of phases together to break down a resilient Nelson defence.

The game's only try came from Cowbridge losing a scrum against the head, inside the Nelson 22. The Nelson fly half decided to run the unexpected ball, only to run into Barry Langdon-Cryer, the Cowbridge inside centre, who performed a tackle.

Ben Jones, the Cowbridge open-side, was first to the breakdown and made a great turnover. From this turnover, Jones quickly fed Harry Ridge, the Cowbridge outside centre, who made a simple pass to Sam Green, the Cowbridge right wing.

Green quickly got up to speed to outpace his opposite number and with a great hand-off scored in the corner. The try not only showed the power of a turnover in midfield but also how a quick turnover is incredibly hard to defend against.

Nelson, did not allow this try to knock their confidence and they came straight back at Cowbridge. Cowbridge made a number of infringements at the breakdown, allowing Nelson a number of penalties gaining them territory deep into the Cowbridge 22.

With a few minutes before the break Nelson had a line-out five metres out. A neat line-out move resulted in the Nelson pack driving hard for the line.

The Cowbridge pack matched the Nelson for-



wards, but were again penalised. This time Nelson adopted the tap penalty approach and only a last-gasp, try-stopping tackle by Lewis Hawke, the Cowbridge hooker, stopped an obvious try.

The second half was a similarly close affair with both teams having their chances to cross the line.

Learning from Nelson, Cowbridge ran their own lineout move just outside the Nelson 22. The ball ended up in Green's hands who offloaded to the powerful Cowbridge second row, Luke Conner.

Conner made a charge for the line, only to have the ball ripped from his hands just as he was about to score. Nelson responded with some running from deep inside their own half and managed to put a number of phases of play together.

The Nelson backs made some simple passes and put away their speedy winger just inside their own half. It was a foot race between the Nelson right wing and Green, the Cowbridge left wing.

Just inside the Cowbridge 22, Green made a great tackle to bring down the Nelson winger and superb support by the Cowbridge back row allowed I. Williams to clear the Cowbridge scrum half to clear the ball into touch.

With only the full back to beat Langdon-Cryer made a fantastic sidestep at pace to score under the posts.

The second half followed the same path as the Nelson game, with both teams having the ability to score but the final passes just not going to hand.

Fadre made a number

In the tournament's second game, Cowbridge faced Llantwit Fadre. Even though Fadre had been beaten by Nelson they still had a chance to win the tournament if they managed to beat Cowbridge by more than the score they lost to Nelson.

Cowbridge started the game on the back foot and it was Fadre who made the early pressure. Only some scrambled defence by Cowbridge kept the scoreline 0-0.

From a breakdown deep inside the Cowbridge 22, Ben Jones, managed to get his hands on the ball and set off on a length of the field run down the blind-side.

With the Fadre defence doing the best to cover, Jones was dragged down 10 metres short of the line. Cowbridge were then penalised for an infringement at the breakdown, allowing Fadre to clear their lines. Cowbridge were now getting more and more of the possession but not in any scoring position.

The deadlock was broken with a brilliant individual try from Langdon-Cryer. He collected the bouncing ball just inside the Fadre half, and with a burst of pace and hand-off found himself clear of the Fadre first line of defence.

With only the full back to beat Langdon-Cryer made a fantastic sidestep at pace to score under the posts.

The second half followed the same path as the Nelson game, with both teams having the ability to score but the final passes just not going to hand.

Fadre made a number

of hard runs into the Cowbridge defence only to be thwarted by some excellent resolute tackling.

With the penalty

count running against Cowbridge, the team dug deep and showed great team spirit to battle out hard fought victory.

Once again, the team's ethos of not conceding a try through fantastic defence resulted in two hard fought victories.

Well done boys, a hard fought tournament victory, well played, you should be very proud.

GJ

We obtained draws on the top

three boards, with Guenter Eztmuss earning a win on board four to give us three and a half points out of the five on offer.

Later, we heard that St John's College could only pick up a draw against Porthcawl to confirm that the Camelots are champions; the Penarth team became the first team to be relegated from division two. This is the sixth successive season in which the Camelots have either been promoted or relegated.

The Quarks played at home on the same night. Some of their normal players had been elevated to play for the Camelots but we only needed a half point for promotion. The opponents, the Caerphilly Rooks, needed two and a half points to be sure of avoiding relegation.

The game ended with a win for Caerphilly, with the Quarks' only points coming from a draw by Peter Watkins and a win on board four for Chris Green.

This result was good enough to secure promotion for the Quarks, but also means our other division three team, the Gambits, are now relegated with one round of matches to play.

They will join the Cardiff

Cavaliers and Penarth Barons in division four in September. This is the first time in six seasons that the Gambits have played at this level.

On Wednesday, the Bosons travelled to Cardiff to complete their matches. They took on the league runners-up, Cardiff Bishops, and earned a good three and a half to one and a half win. This means that for the third time in four seasons they have finished third.

This year, they have earned 52 points, which is more than they have earned for quite a few years and only finished three points behind the Cardiff Bishops. Possibly with a better start they could have been challenging for second place.

For more details visit barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

P JONES,
CLUB SECRETARY

Millwood bowlers beaten by Penarth

RINK 2 (Millwood bowlers first):

A. Norris, H. Hodgkinson, M. Williams, J. Butler (skip) 13 - P. Davies, A. Savage, H. Trow, B. Lewis (skip) 29.

Rink 3: P. Childs, D. Gorringe, M. Jodrell, P. Taylor (skip) 19 - G. Thomas, M. England, R. Jones, N. Chandler (skip) 17.

Rink 4: J. Howells, A. Evans, K. Davies, B. Croxford (skip) 13 - D. Shirley, J. Peterson, R. Maggs, C. Williams

(skip) 20

Rink 5: G. Stone, E. Marles, A. Bumford, C. Jones (skip) 27 - D. Murphy, J. Whitfield, R. Gibran, D. Clements (skip) 19.

Total shots - Millwood 72, Penarth 85.

Do you enjoy, or would like to learn, to play bowls? If so please come along to our club to find out more, we are situated in Broad Close, Pontypridd Road, Barry; call us on 01446 744237.

JH

TAI CHI GROUP

A NEW weekly Tai Chi group will be starting on May 16 at Ewenny Village Hall, every Thursday from 11am - 12pm.

The group will be run by Sue Provis, who explained: "Tai Chi can help to increase flexibility, suppleness and exercise the muscles. It is low impact with smooth, gentle movements that also aid relaxation and help to keep the mind calm and focused, without putting too much pressure on the bones and joints".

To find out more, and to register your interest with Tennis Connect Wales, you can visit the website: www.TennisConnect.co.uk, or email: tennisconnect.wales@gmail.com.

Coaches urged to help youngsters

A new voluntary organisation is calling on local tennis coaches to help tackle the financial barriers preventing young people from disadvantaged areas taking up the sport.

The founder of Tennis Connect Wales, Steve Milne, said: "Through Tennis Connect I want to identify passionate coaches and connect them with suitable schools in their local area, so we can create more coaching and playing opportunities for the kids to get involved."

To find out more, and to register your interest with Tennis Connect Wales, you can visit the website: www.TennisConnect.co.uk, or email: tennisconnect.wales@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM BARRY CHESS CLUB

Camelots promoted as the champions!

THE winter season is inexorably edging towards completion.

This time of the year sees unusual results, as some of the teams fighting relegation bring in stronger players to help out, and for some teams the normal players reach their maximum allowed games, and strong teams become weak teams.

On Monday, April 15, both the Camelots and Quarks played with promotion on the agenda. The Camelots needed five points to clinch the divisional title with three games to play as they played host to Penarth.

The only thing decided in this division is that the Camelots had already been promoted. Indeed, seven teams still have a chance of joining the Camelots in division one next year, and Penarth are one of only two teams to defeat the Camelots so far.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Barry's team was somewhat weaker than usual. The Penarth team could only raise four players themselves so when the match started we were already one point ahead.

We obtained draws on the top

three boards, with Guenter Eztmuss earning a win on board four to give us three and a half points out of the five on offer.

Later, we heard that St John's College could only pick up a draw against Porthcawl to confirm that the Camelots are champions; the Penarth team became the first team to be relegated from division two. This is the sixth successive season in which the Camelots have either been promoted or relegated.

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They will join the Cardiff

LOCAL GIRLS' TITLE JOY

On Wednesday,

April 17, eight girls from Romilly Primary School travelled to the Cardiff City Football House of Sport to compete in the girls-only football tournament organized in conjunction with Cardiff City and New Directions Teaching Agency.

Showing great skill and teamwork, the girls played six matches, winning five and losing one. Romilly finished second in their group which means they will play at the finals day held on May 1.

Dawn Dobbs, their teacher and coach, said: "The girls were fantastic, especially in defence. They only conceded one goal throughout the whole tournament. I am so proud of their achievements and their sportsmanship."

JR



Local schools' joy at netball schools final

ON April 18, winning teams from

qualifying tournaments across Cardiff and the Vale gathered to compete in the Cardiff and Vale Primary netball schools final.

Ten teams from nine schools took part in the tournament. St David's 1, together with some excellent goal shooting, was rewarded with a well-deserved 4-2 win.

I'm extremely proud to say that both teams successfully combined excellent sporting skills with impressive sportsmanship throughout the day.

Congratulations to all who played and many thanks for the great support of parents as well during the day.

The tournament win now qualifies St David's 1 to progress to the national finals, to be held on May 22 in the National Sports Centre of Wales, Cardiff.

L Croke,
St David's C/W Primary School

their pool, enabling both teams to progress to the semi-finals.

Two nail biting, well-fought semi-finals were played. The final whistle saw St David's 1 secure a win against Hywel Dda.

Unfortunately, despite some magnificent play, St David's 2 just missed a place in the final.

The final was a fiery, competitive battle between St David's 1 and Cogan. Both teams produced an impressive display of ball skills and showed a level of play well ahead of their years.

Cheered by their St David's 2 teammates, the Colwynian netballers relentlessly attacked the goal and displayed some outstanding defensive play. The team's determination to win was evident in first and second place in

Pencoed derail the Trebanos victory train

WITH the *Scrum V* cameras present and the champagne on ice, a large contingent of Trebanos supporters arrived at the Recreation Ground ready to crown the 'Banos' as Division 3 South West champions.

The home side had not read the script however, and after an absorbing contest, ran out 17-12 winners.

Pencoed found themselves 0-7 down in the first minute, centre Thomas charging down an attempted home clearance to score at the posts, with outside half Nick Domanovitch converting.

Pencoed then went on the attack, keeping the ball through a number of phases to force a Trebanos error, for Pencoed outside half Marc Davies to open the home account with a penalty goal.

Pencoed continued to threaten, with centre Scott Narberth breaking the Trebanos midfield and young openside Curtis Williams showing good awareness in support before scrambled defence snuffed out the attack.

It was Trebanos, however, who were to increase their lead with several members of their pack showing good hands to release full back Keri Jones down the left to score wide out and lead 3-12.

Pencoed then picked up a yellow card and things looked a little shaky for the home side, but their defence, which was ultimately to win them the match, held



ABOVE: Aaron Halse scores for Pencoed, while, BELOW: Gareth Prentice makes a break for it.

PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK



firm.

The Pencoed front row of Sean Donovan, hooker Ieuan Watkins, and Nicky Hawkins, well supported by locks Dano Howells and young Chris John, were getting the better of exchanges up front, and were unlucky not to get anything from a series of strong scrummages near the Trebanos line, but the visitors held out and led the break.

Glen Hiscocks and Morris home skipper Ken Morris made breaks early in the second half, before Pencoed got the try of the match.

Full back Hiscocks made a searing 50 metre break, before the supporting Howells made further inroads for Davies to feed back row forward Aaron Halse, angling on to his pass and stretching over, despite the attentions of a desperate 'Banos' defence.

Davies added the extras and at 10-12 it was Trebanos who were beginning to wobble. Home No 8 Gareth Prentice was giving Trebanos trouble with his abrasive running, almost breaking clear of the defence.

Prentice was not to be denied however, and following another forceful home scrummage, the man of the match broke off to power over. Davies converted and Pencoed led 17-12.

Pencoed continued to dominate up front and destroyed a Trebanos scrum, before once again picking up the dreaded yellow card for a technical offence.

The anxious Trebanos support was now becom-

ing increasingly vociferous, with their team throwing everything bar the proverbial kitchen sink at the home side, whose depleted defence was once again superb to a man.

Wings Liam Halse and Aaron Songhurst made last ditch tackles to keep their line intact. Pencoed were making life difficult for themselves, picking up their third yellow card of the match for the second week in succession, but again defied the odds with a scrum turnover.

Relatively fresh front row replacements Andrew Shillam and Tom Drew were probably instrumental in this.

Trebanos tried all they knew during the closing 10 minutes, but their efforts were in vain against a totally committed Pencoed side, and on the balance of play the home side thoroughly deserved their victory over the champions-elect.

Trebanos, who have finished their season, and will now look to Pencoed to do them a huge favour by denying championship aspirants Mumbles the necessary total match points over the two meetings between the clubs.

Pencoed, of course, have their own aspirations, with a second place finish mathematically possible, and will no doubt do their utmost to finish the season with three wins, the league outcome in the lap of the gods!

On Saturday, Pencoed host Mumbles at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

TR

Nicky's cap honour



Pictured is Pencoed RFC front row forward Nicky Hawksin with his club cap, having played 300 games. Nicky, who hails from the Ogmore Valley, joined Pencoed RFC as a youth player and has served the club admirably ever since.

ATHLETIC TRIUMPH IN A THRILLER

PONTYPOOL came to Waterton Cross seeking their fifth consecutive win and their best run for three years, but the Athletic were seeking to spoil their plans. A close game was expected as the Athletic had won at Pontypool Park with the last kick earlier this season.

The first chance went to the Ath with a penalty attempt on five minutes, but outside half Lawrence Howley

missed the difficult kick into a strong cross wind.

A similar opportunity was scored by visiting full back, Clayton Gullis, after the Ath wheeled the scrum, though he had the wind's benefit. The home team were next to create danger when openside, Callum McLoud, charged down the ball, but Pooler scrambled the ball clear.

A visit to the sin bin for home second row, Jamie Doherty after a heated exchange gave strong impetus to the visitors. The penalty was kicked to touch and from the lineout the home team infringement again.

In the style of their great history, Pontypool opted for the scrum and the eight man shové brought the first try to prop Josh Powell and Pooler moved to 8-0; Gullis missed the conversion.

Poiler sought to dominate against the home 14, when plucky scrum half Aled Thomas picked up a loose ball and sprinted 40 metres to score. Howley could not convert.

The Ath were right

back in the game with their forwards crawling all over the visitors' eight and prominent during this period were captain Sean Williams and Morgan Evans, with Doherty now making up for lost time with some powerful surges over the gain line.

Adding to these attacks were full back, James Olds, centres Mike Hathaway and Tom Morgan and the driving play of prop, Rhod Apsee.

The next score was to go to Pontypool with a home wing caught in an offside position when Olds sent a long kick to touch. Pooler applied pressure from the penalty and a missed tackle was punished when centre, Ashley Norton galloped in under the posts, giving an easy conversion for Gullis.

Now losing by 10 points, the home side were stung into action and applied persistent pressure on the visitors' try line. Strong running centre, Tom Morgan, who had caused problems to the visitors with his abrasive and elusive style, got the touchdown, converted by Howley.

The pack's patient play in a series of pick and go's led to a try for prop, Apsee for the Ath to run out six tries to four, 36-30, winners of an exciting game and a great 'double'. DB

During this period of pressure Pontypool centre Ashley Norton received a yellow card. Halftime arrived with the visitors leading 12-15, but the Ath smelt blood.

They started the second half with forwards and backs playing in harmony like a well-tuned violin. The try came from captain, Sean Williams after initial penetration by both Morgan and co-centre, Mike Hathaway and Apsee sensing the line before passing; Howley converted.

This signalled the first substitutions when Huw Morris replaced Wayne Fookes in the front row, the latter having impressed against a much bigger opponent. Griff Davies came on at lock in place of Morgan Evans who had been playing well.

Davies made a quick impression when he scored in the corner after receiving the ball from wing Kyle Dobbins. The conversion was missed, but the third quarter had seen the home team double its score to lead 24-15.

Still not satisfied, the Athletic pressed with a fine break by Dobbins before a forward pass stopped the move. If the Athletic thought they had the game won, Pooler had a few surprises up their sleeves to.

Halfway through the second half it nearly all went wrong for the Athletic. A period of strong Pontypool pressure saw the home pack driven off the ball and some exciting running from deep, notably from elusive wing Dai Davies, who was creating mayhem.

Scrum half Josh Guy's try and a Gullis conversion coincided with the home full back, Olds, going into the bin for interfering with play.

The visitors' try was followed by another from Ash Norton, created from deep with incisive running by the visitors.

Pooler now led 24-27

and might have scored again save for a last gasp tackle by Aled Thomas. When the Athletic backs were caught offside,

Gullis accepted the gift of a penalty and with 10 seconds to go Pontypool with a home wing caught in an offside position when Olds sent a long kick to touch. Pooler applied pressure from the penalty and a missed tackle was punished when centre, Ashley Norton galloped in under the posts, giving an easy conversion for Gullis.

The game continued at a frantic pace and Kenfig Hill were awarded another penalty, converted by Giles.

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a frantic pace and Kenfig Hill were awarded another penalty, converted by Giles.

After a sustained

attack Tondu finally

broke through the Kenfig

Hill defence for Dai

Bishop to cross the line,

Murphy making no mis-

take with the conversion.

Kenfig Hill crossed

the line but the ball was

held up by the Tondu

defence.

The home side contin-

ued to attack and winger

Chris Jenkins was

brought down inches

from the line; Giles then

added a penalty.

Kenfig Hill were then

called back for a forward

pass when they were

clear of the opposing

defence. Chris Jenkins

then received the ball on

the 25 yard line and out-

paced the covering

Kenfig Hill are back on track with a win over Tondu



Chris Jenkins crosses the line for Kenfig Hill - to the delight of the female crowd!

PICTURES BY

PETER GILLING



Darryl Harvey fights his way through.

Outside half Nicky Giles opened the scoring for Kenfig Hill with a well struck penalty just after the kick off.

Tondu used their

jumbo

pack to good

effect, putting the Kenfig Hill 8 under pressure in the scrums, but defensively the Mules were superb, especially when under pressure on the line.

The home side went

on the offensive with

the Kenfig

Hill backs slicing

through the

midfield;

they were finally brought

down close to the Tondu

line and in the ensuing

maul

hooker

Darryl

Harvey

picked the ball

up and powered his way

over for a try, Giles converting.

Tondu replied

with a penalty by

Matthew Murphy.

Kenfig Hill received a

yellow card but Tondu

were unable to capitalise

on this in open play.

Tondu were awarded a

five yard scrum and went

for a pushover try,

Kenfig

Hill cleared the ball but were adjudged to have done this unfairly, and the referee awarded a penalty try, which was converted by Murphy.

The game continued at

a frantic pace and Kenfig

Hill were awarded another

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converted by Giles.

The game continued at

a frantic pace and Kenfig

Hill were awarded another

penalty

converted by Giles.

The game was played

in great conditions and in

front of a healthy crowd,

Porthcawl came out of

the blocks very quickly,

attacking

Maesteg

from the off, Fon Ludwig leading the way with some good hard carries.

It enabled the backs to

be given the ball on the

front foot and man of the

match

Conor Rees

was able to release the

back-line, with quick ball from the base.

The backline was back

to full strength, with Jim

Needs and Jake Thomas

hitting some terrific

angles of running to

breakdown

Maesteg's

dogged

defence,

and

Thomas

managed to

cross the try line first.

With conditions suit-



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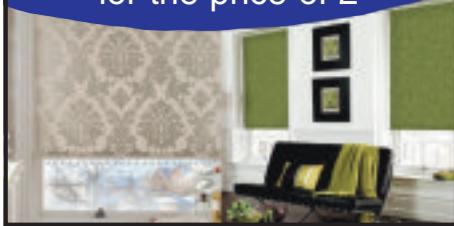
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Family Notices

DAVIES
Myra
(Tudor Garage)

Tom, Gavin and Valmai would like to thank all family and friends of Ystradgynlais for their kind words, cards, attendance at the funeral and donations to Crossroads.

Thanks also to Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors and finally to the Minister Heather Weddle for a beautiful service. Thank you all.

Angela Pike
(née O'Brien)

22-9-61 to 14-4-13, formerly of Llantwit Major. After a long battle, born with dignity, Angela sadly lost the fight, surrounded by the love of her family.

A loving daughter to Joan and the late Daniel O'Brien, precious sister to Debora and Richard, much-loved sister-in-law to Neill and Janet and late Hilda, and brother-in-law to Rhianon, mother-in-law to Chris and precious nan to Kholo Mae, loving aunt to all her nieces and nephews. Funeral to be held on Tuesday April 30 at 12.45, at Briwenn Chapel, Thornhill, Cardiff, followed by interment at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations to Velfinde Hospital.

Special thanks to doctors and nurses at Llandough and Velfinde Hospital.

LYNCH
Mair

Peacefully on April 13 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a long illness, Mair of St Athan. Beloved wife of the late Victor, dearly loved mother of Anthony, Bernadette, Mark and Teresa, loving sister of Doreen.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, April 29, service and interment 2pm at Flemington Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

DAVIES
Ena

(of Frank Williams Greengrocers, Llantwit Major)

Died peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on 22 April, 2013. Wife of the late John, loving sister of Janet and late Hilda, and brother-in-law John. A much loved aunt of Howell, Jonathan, Rowena, Alex, Helen and Cath. Will be sadly missed by all.

The family would like to thank the staff of the hospital and previously Danygraig House, Porthcawl for their care over past months. The funeral arrangements are not yet confirmed and a further announcement will follow.

Family History

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SENSEI HAZARD VISITS LOCAL STUDENTS



PICTURED (left to right): Rhys Hilditch, Michael Scannell, Luke Sloan, Simon Dodd, Sensei Dave Hazard, Kirsty Stuart and (kneeling) Logan Wheeler. Not pictured is Ieuan Parker.

DRUIDS WIN THE LEAGUE IN STYLE!

L L A N T W I T MAJOR'S seconds, The Druids, won Mid Glamorgan District League Division 1 at home in emphatic style.

They hosted third place Bryn in a tense end of season clash at home on the Rec; with Bryn being one of only two sides to beat the Druids this season, revenge was high on the agenda for the home team.

An inspiring pre-match talk from senior coach Darren Joy prepared the Druids for what was expected to be a close encounter following the away fixture earlier in the season.

A strong Bryn side were put under pressure from the outset, with strong forward play and outside half Dan Powell intent on establishing territorial dominance over the visitors.

Turning pressure into points has been the mantra all season and it wasn't long before the scoreboard was ticking over in favour of the Druids.

A penalty from 30 metres out followed by a try and further penalty and another try took the Druids to 16-0 at half time, leaving the visitors to contemplate a long second half playing upfield against a team increasing in confidence

as the game went on. It could have been more in the first half if the ball had been allowed to do the work but, nevertheless, the Druids had established a platform at halftime that looked unassailable.

Early injuries to prop Tony Burrows and second row Chris Evans resulted in an earlier than expected reorganisation of the side, but the heady cocktail of youth and experience paid dividends as the second half commenced with the Druids intent on pinning the courageous Bryn side deep in the bottom half of the field.

Man of the match performances from one to

19 eventually delivered a fantastic bonus point win with outstanding charges from replacement prop Allan Holloway, having the game of the season, and the evergreen marauding former first team captain Matthew Young, coming on at flanker to complement another great performance from ex-youth player Gareth Watts playing in the back, row raised the stakes.

The forwards performance, led by captain Stephen Howells, taking front of the line ball, and Blaine Thomas, taking middle line ball, strangled the quality of supply to the visitors.

The scrum has been a difficult area for the Druids to dominate during the season but the front row certainly stepped up to the mark with great performances from hooker Jake McNaughton, showing great first team potential for the future, and Jonny Walker impressing as always with strong scrummaging and deceptively cunning positioning, putting pressure on the Bryn full back at various times during the game.

It was good to see the captain's brother, Nathan Howells, back in at second row, to make the day a real family affair.

The backs deserve a mention with conditions limiting their ability to throw the ball around as much as they would want. Counterattacking from full back, Martin Barnard put pressure on the visitors' kicking game while scrum half Barry Griffiths probed the Bryn defence at every opportunity with several tap and go penalties, causing confusion amongst the visitors.

Great service to Dan Powell eventually allowed Mike Myers and Rob Grapes some

freedom to get wings Scott Keeling and Rhys David into the game with replacement wing Rhys Ellis acquitting himself well when the opportunity presented itself.

Rhys David's courageous tackling and the physical presence of Fijian Tubaka snuffed out some serious attempts by Bryn to get back into the game and turned defence into counterattack.

The final score was

34-0 at full time with tries for Griffiths (2), Powell and Watts, and four penalties and a conversion to Powell, rounding off a league-winning performance.

A strong ethos in the Druids is the unselfish approach of all players, who have allowed a "play all who turn up" policy to exist throughout the season despite everyone naturally wanting to play their part at all times. Congratulations to every player who has played a part in the Druids achievements this season.

The Druids visit Pontycymmer on April 27 for their final league game then look forward to league play offs on May 4 and 11, with the opportunity to prove they are real champions.

Druids: 15 Martin Barnard, 14 Rhys David, 13 Mike Myers, 12 Rob Grapes, 11 Scott Keeling, 10 Dan Powell, 9 Barry Griffiths, 8 Gareth Watts, 7 Stephen Howells (c), 6 Blaine Thomas, 5 Chris Evans, 4 Nathan Howells, 3 Jonny Walker, 2 Jake McNaughton, 1 Tony Burrows. Substitutes: 16 Matthew Young, 17 Allan Holloway, 18 Rhys Ellis, 19 N Tubaka.

BG

FOR yet another year, the Welsh Karate Union was very privileged to host Sensei Dave Hazard (7th Dan).

Students of the Llantwit Major and St Athan Karate Club were in attendance over the full weekend course, with many new students having never trained on a course before; talk about an introduction!

The course took place over the weekend of April 6-7. Saturday's classes were dedicated to blocking techniques and kata for white-purple belts, with a following course for brown-black belts, dealing with the kata Kankusho. Anyone who thinks they know kata well get a huge (positive) shock on these sessions.

The Sunday course was open to all ages and grades and covered an hour of blocks and defence, and another hour focusing on striking technique. The emphasis on all these courses is understanding and learning why we do what we do.

Those who have trained with Sensei Hazard before will tell you he is amongst the best there is, teaching realistic, practical karate with one of the most unique teaching styles you will find; Sensei Hazard could easily

be on a stage somewhere!

From white belt to 6th Dan, you walk in and learn from scratch as if you have never trained before, such is his knowledge and expertise.

Sensei Simon Dodd (3rd Dan), instructor of the Llantwit Major and St Athan clubs, was exceptionally proud of his students for making the effort to attend and their enthusiasm and desire to learn cannot be questioned.

Sensei Hazard himself remarked how hard they all worked, so well done everyone. I would also like to make a special mention to Rhys Hilditch, Logan Wheeler, Luke Sloan and Ieuan Parker for making the effort to be there having only been training for a short time.

The Llantwit Major and St Athan Karate club is the longest established karate club in the area, with a long history and great local links and is run entirely on a volunteer basis.

They have recently moved from Llantwit Major Leisure Centre and are now based on MoD St Athan Gymnasium, every Wednesday and Friday between 6.30pm-8pm.

Contact Sensei Simon Dodd on 07917 441138 for more information.

SD

Under-15s end their season on a high

CONTINUED
FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR PAGE 48

Flanker Toby Walker was particularly dominant at the line-out and was able to provide a stream of quality ball for the backs.

Llantwit were next to

score with a well worked move by the backs which saw the visitors' defence cut to ribbons by captain Joe Bunt, cutting a superb angle before bursting through three attempted tackles to score near the posts.

Iestyn Jones added the extras to close the gap to two points as the half-time whistle went.

Llantwit had the better of the conditions for the second half and began to use them to their advantage.

From a scrum on the 10 metre line Llantwit went through some excellent phases with full back Todd Oldfield making ground before recycling the ball for Steffan Godwin, who fed Iestyn Jones quickly.

This once again saw the visitors' backs creep offside in front of the posts. Jones converted the penalty from outside the 22 to give Llantwit a one point lead.

Any thoughts that CRICC would collapse under the pressure were quickly dispelled when they responded with another well worked try out wide.

Once again, the conversion attempt went wide and CRICC had restored a healthy lead to take it to the final quarter.

Earlier in the season Llantwit would have found it hard to respond but the past few months of hard work in training have given a new steely edge to the team.

The coaches encouraged the team to stick to their patterns and go through the phases as the game restarted.

The home side applied the pressure to the

CRICC backline and superb work at the breakdown by the back row of Toby Walker, Max Croucher, Will Rees and replacement Owen Jauncey, meant that the visitors' split the ball forward to give Llantwit a scrum in the visitors' 22.

A well executed blind side move from the base saw flying wing Alex Hill squeeze over in the corner after some great footwork to extend the lead and take the score to 23-17.

Llantwit were not finished

and with the final play of the game scored another well worked try which saw Alex Hill burst off of his wing to cut the CRICC defence to pieces to score under the posts. Jones added the extras to close the game out.

The final score of 30-17 reflected the dominance of the Llantwit backs and the great efforts of the under-sized forward pack to front up to their much bigger opponents.

The coaching team of Richard Godwin, Steve Richards, Dean Bunting and Tim Jones would like to thank the players for all their hard work through what has been a tough season which has seen the team really develop well in preparation for their final year in junior rugby.

TJ

Devils star in World Championship debut

A LOCAL ice-hockey star, who works at a Bridgend opticians, played his first match as a member of the Great Britain ice hockey squad last week.

Ben Davies (22) was selected to join 35 of Great Britain's most talented ice hockey players competing at the World Ice Hockey Championships in Budapest.

Ben, who has played professionally with the Cardiff Devils for three seasons, made his debut in Great Britain's opening match against

Hungary. He combines playing for his team with his work for Devils' sponsor, Specsavers, on Adare Street.

He said: "I am really excited at being selected to play for the Great Britain squad. I missed out on the travelling squad for the Olympic qualifiers to Japan and Latvia, but I have been really looking forward to the trip to Hungary. I've represented GB at junior level before but this is my first trip with the seniors."

Despite a performance to be proud of, the Great Britain team were beaten 4-2 by their hosts.

Midweek defeat for Llantwit RFC

BUOYED by the excellent win at Barry the previous Saturday, Llantwit Major were intent on taking another prized scalp when promotion hopefuls Old Iltydians visited the Rec last Wednesday.

Playing down the slope with the wind at their backs, Llantwit started lively enough but the visitors took the lead after 25 minutes with a simple penalty.

On the half hour Llantwit took the lead with an opportunist try. Scrum half Ryan Evans did well to get the ball away from a wheeled scrum near the centre spot and Chris Fowler kicked straight down the middle.

In the testing wind the Iltydians full back never quite made the ground and Llantwit full back Marcus Pearce leapt high to gather and drew the cover defence before passing to wing Andy McNicol who raced over; Ryan Evans converted.

Just before halftime, centre Rhys Dixon increased Llantwit's lead with another opportunist try as he charged down a kick 30 metres out and gathered before outstripping everyone on his way to the posts; again Evans added the extras.

With the elements in the favour the pressure was always going to come from the visitors and despite the backs

DG

Cup final awaits Vale Schools

ON A bright sunny morning at the Old Penarthians RFC, the Vale of Glamorgan Schools welcomed Pontypridd Schools in the semi-final of the DC Thomas Cup.

The game started at an electric pace with Pontypridd gaining the better of early exchanges. A crunching tackle by Ponty captain and star player Daniel John followed by a turnover and a lightning break by fullback Dylan George gave Ponty the first score. They soon doubled their lead when good work by their forwards sent big Evan Price over.

This stung the Vale of Glamorgan into action and from this moment on for almost half an hour it was non-stop Vale. The initial response was by from captain dynamic Iestyn Galton, who broke down the blindside of a ruck to squeeze home in the corner.

Rhys Gentiles was the next to score, benefiting from a quick tap penalty by livewire scrum half Jac Tudor to burst through unopposed.

The Vale forwards, led by the magnificent Evan Lloyd, continued to play at their marauding best, destroying

everything in front of them.

Further tries followed quickly from Lloyd himself and Charlie Jowett as the game turned on its head.

Outside half Jamie Howells was at his dazzling best and throughout sidestepped his way over for the team's fifth try before Mason Grady powered through for the sixth.

To their credit Ponty did reply with two late tries but by this stage the game was well and truly up for them, the final score Vale Schools 42, Pontypridd Schools 28.

Reaching the Millennium Stadium final for the second successive season represents a phenomenal achievement for all the players coaches and administration staff involved in running the squad.

Coach Duncan Mottram said: "We're absolutely over the moon, it's a fantastic opportunity for these young players to perform on the same stage as their heroes."

All attention now turns to the May 11 final; kick off is expected to be 12:30pm and entry is free via gate 4. Former players, parents, relatives and school friends are most welcome to come and support this year's talented squad.



Vale squad: back row - Ty Golding (coach), Rhys Gentiles, Morgan Veness, Iestyn Galton (c), Will Tuckwell, Harri Williams, Evan Lloyd, Charlie Jowett, Lewys Williams, Duncan Mottram (coach).
Front row - Ben Batten, Jamie Howells, Will Lloyd, Steffan Crimp, Edward Thomas, Jac Tudor, Aled Rees, Mason Grady.

Cowbridge under-9s in a bruising battle

C O W B R I D G E under-9s ended their season with a bruising battle in Pontypridd.

The match played over three periods was an eye opener for the Cowbridge boys as the intensity of the Pontypridd tackling saw one or two temporarily leave the field but great tenacity and bravery saw Cowbridge stay in the game.

Pontypridd raced into the lead with three early

tries before Alfie Rees got Cowbridge on the scoreboard with one of his trademark powerful runs.

Pontypridd were the bigger side and their physicality and powerful tackling were causing Cowbridge problems.

Ponty added another try to take them into a 4-1 lead and it looked at this stage that a heavy defeat seemed likely.

However, just before the break Steffan Evans added another try for Cowbridge to keep the final whistle blew.

This was a hard game but the commitment and attitude shown by the Cowbridge team in not giving in was superb and it ended another good season for this group of players.

Special thanks must go to coach Sam Brennan for all his hard work supported by Ian Harris and Mark Francis.

The coaches in turn would like to thank the parents for their continuing support of them and for ensuring the boys make training and games and hope all enjoy the summer break.

A few of the Cowbridge players had left the field following bone crunching tackles but to their credit all returned to the field in the last period to show their commitment to the team.

Alfie Rees again crossed the whitewash in reply to two Pontypridd

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-16 B travelled to Sully A and came back with all the points following a 2-0 win, thanks to goals from Mike Millani and Harry Harpin; Dan Read was again fantastic, keeping a clean sheet.

Llantwit under-13A contested their first cup final recently at Jenner Park against Sully. On a pitch made very tricky by heavy overnight rain the start of the match saw Llantwit playing some good football and creating some good opportunities early on.

Angus Mitchell tested the Sully keeper from the edge of the box and another effort being blocked on the line when Llantwit were awarded a free kick when the keeper was adjudged to have picked up a back pass.

Llantwit eventually took one of their chances when Liam Butcher burst into the box and volleyed into the bottom corner. This stung Sully into life and they raised their game towards the end of the half but Llantwit held on to go into the break 1-0 up.

Sully came out for the second half and immediately started dominating possession and territory, and one of their halftime substitutes fired in an unstoppable shot from outside the box to equalise early on.

Chances continued to appear for

both teams but both keepers were in outstanding form, with Joe Baker pulling off a stunning save in his top right hand corner from a brilliantly taken Sully free kick, and the score remained 1-1 up to the end of normal time.

For the second time in four days, Llantwit went into extra time to decide a cup match. As legs tired on both teams and the big pitch seemed to get bigger, the football quality dropped a little but the intensity never did.

Eventually something had to give and it did in Sully's favour and they bundled the ball across the line in the second half of extra time.

Llantwit threw everything at Sully in the final five minutes, roared on by a large following of spectators, but despite putting their defence under pressure couldn't quite get the clear cut chance they needed.

As Llantwit committed more players forward Sully took advantage and scored a third goal in the last seconds of the game.

A thoroughly entertaining and high quality football match was won by Sully 3-1, but the Llantwit players should be enormously proud of their performance and achievement of getting to their first final – hopefully the first of many.

SC

Liege Manor hosts equestrian qualifier

RECENTLY, Liege Manor Equestrian Centre was honoured to run a regional qualifier for the British Horse Society National Riding Schools competition.

These competitions are run in order to provide riding school clients

with the opportunity to compete for the first time.

In the under-10 age category the overall winner was Katherine Hill riding *Coppa*, in second place was Talor Hopkins riding *Rocky*, in third was Cora Holmes-Brain riding *Rocky* and in fourth place Caitlin Evans riding *Cameo*.

In the under-7 age category, the overall winner was Brook Lewis riding *Rhoda* and in second place was Molly Lapham riding *Cameo*.

A great day was had by all, and everyone from Liege Manor Equestrian would like to take this opportunity to thank all the competitors for their brilliant performances and also a big thank you to all for allowing the day to be a great success.

RW



With the game slipping away, the Sully boys bowled an excellent 20th end to pick up four shots and trail by just one going into the last end.

Brian and Graham bowled a very sound last end and incredibly picked up the two shots they needed to record a memorable 19-18 victory.

They had reached the final where they would meet the redoubtable Price brothers, Ken and Ray from Radnorshire, winners previously of several national titles, including the over-60s pairs.

The game was tight throughout, with Ken playing some exceptional saving shots to lead just 9-6 after 15 ends.

This lead was extended to 13-6 and it seemed that the title would not be Sully bound. Once again, though, Brian and Graham dug-in and levelled the match at 14-14 with the last end remaining.

Ken was forced to play aggressively and moved the jack to hold shot. Brian again drew the shot and, with Ken just failing twice, Brian did not have to bowl his last wood as the boys from Barry had won 15-14 – they were Welsh champions!

What an achievement for themselves, Sully Indoor Bowls Club and Barry Romilly, their parent club.

Under-15s' remarkable win

COWBRIDGE under-15s travelled to St. Joseph's with a bare 15 man squad to face the largest pack of forwards that the boys had experienced this season.

Tom Trotman and James Bennett were co-opted from the backs to join the ranks of the forwards and despite the Cowbridge forwards being greatly out-sized, they put up a valiant effort to hold up the strong St. Joe's pack.

St. Joe's opened with a try but the Cowbridge team managed to gain composure and fight back with a James Bennett try to go in at halftime 7 - 5 down.

St. Joe's started the second half with a further try but the Cowbridge boys

were now starting to move the ball around the pitch in their usual fashion which led to tries for Ed Couzens, Rian Thomas and Eugene Richards, who stroked over all three conversions.

St. Joe's ended strongly and scored a try in the last minute to complete a memorable 26-17 win for Cowbridge.

Man of the match was Ellis Poulsen, closely followed by the tireless work of Luke John.

Squad: George Thomas, Jac Davies, Ed Couzens, Ellis Poulsen, Luke John, Josh Bruce, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas, Ashford Thomas, James Bennett, Rian Thomas, Pete Anderson, Eugene Richards, Luke Bevan and Tom Trotman.

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THIS NIPPY SKODA GIVES A RAPID RESPONSE TO TRANSPORT POVERTY

WHEN my wife visited Canada many moons ago – and before we met – she went white water rafting.... She's a brave lass. She reminded me of this scary event in her life as she sat in the Skoda Rapid that I'm testing this week.

Its name triggered the memory. An unusual name for a sensible family car, I thought, as

there is no way that it can relate to frightening yet invigorating water rapids.

But it is quite nippy – it will hit 60mph from standstill in under 12 seconds and on to a 114mph top speed – so perhaps it relates to speed.

The Saunders family is delighted with this vehicle. Let me tell you why...

Diesel prices are hovering around the £1.45 per litre mark (fuel duty is around 60 pence a litre) and even taking the efficiency of these engines into consideration, such prices are absolutely ridiculous and unfair.

So petrol, some 10p a litre cheaper, looks increasingly more attractive. The trouble is that so many petrol cars remain uneconomical.

Skoda has solved this problem though, by introducing a splendid tiddly 1.2-litre, 86bhp engine that returns an average of over 50mpg. I am staggered.

I am even more dumbfounded by the fact that it has been fitted to the Rapid, which until I read the press pack, I was sure must be a 1.6.

This is an extremely good size family hatchback that fits between the smaller Fabia and the larger Octavia; easily seating five adults in comfort and a whole lot of clobber in the cavernous boot.

Even with my family inside, the engine delivers a more than reasonable driving experience. There is absolutely no road tax to pay either because it's so green.

I will be amazed if Skoda doesn't sell hundreds of thousands of these, especially when considering the OTR price of under £15,000.

The interior might be a little bland but there are front electric win-

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

dows – the children are less likely to open the manually operated ones in the rear, so I'm all for that.

There's air conditioning, heated front seats and electrically heated and adjustable wing mirrors, as you can see

in the video at testdrives.biz.

It also comes with a five-star safety rating. This is a great value for money proposition introduced at just the right time for the poor motorist suffering from hugely inflated fuel

prices.

In fact, according to the RAC Foundation transport poverty has now hit 800,000 homes across the UK.

These car-owning households are spending over a quarter of their disposable income on buying and running a vehicle. They spend £44 a week on car-related expenses. If they were to buy this Skoda their

expenses should drop.

I wonder whether the Skoda marketing team was thinking about 'rapid' sales when naming this vehicle. They might just have something there...

Skoda Rapid 1.2 SE TSi 86PS

£14,650

0-60: 11.8secs

Top speed: 114mph

Economy: 55.4mpg

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Road, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park – and it's business as normal.

New Address: Unit 4, 40D Penllyn Way, Vale Business Park, Llandow CF71 7PF

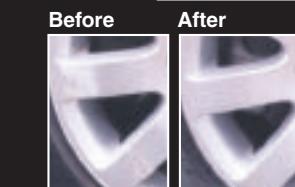
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Martyn O'Rourke became the Autosmart franchisee in Bridgend 20 months ago.

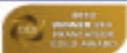
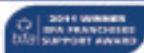
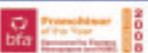
"I previously worked as a senior commercial manager for one of the high street banks. It was a good job and I was well paid, but I had had enough of working for other people. I really wanted the freedom and challenge of working for myself, yet it needed to be financially secure."

"Franchising seemed the obvious answer and I was instantly attracted to Autosmart. They have been going for a long time, are financially very secure, offer a strong franchise package and have an excellent reputation with the high street banks. I knew that my investment would be in safe hands. It's not surprising that they won the prestigious bfa Franchisor of the Year award in 2012."

"After many years of being stuck in an office, I love being out and about every day, building my own business. I take my mobile shop to all sorts of different customers and they stock up on the products they need. My customer base is really varied – it's not just automotive businesses that use our products – they're well respected in all sorts of markets. My customers even include engineers, food companies and printers."

"Life is much less complicated now. I've no staff to worry about and, best of all, no boss watching over me. After many years of corporate life I really appreciate this freedom and simpler life."

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PROMOTION ACHIEVED... Now the hard work starts for Cardiff City FC

WHEN the final whistle was blown at the Cardiff City Stadium last Tuesday, there was an outpouring of joy that hasn't been seen in a footballing context in Wales for a very long time.

The green pitch was soon covered in shades of red and blue, as the Bluebirds celebrated a return to a top flight they last graced 51 years ago.

The tumultuous start of the season, where new club colours and logos were the hot topics, was forgotten as fans who had become all too used to trips to the likes of Derby County and Ipswich now look forward to visiting the footballing cathedrals of the 'big boys'.

It's been a long time coming for a club whose annual flirtation with promotion, only to see it end in agonising defeat, had become an all-too regular part of the footballing calendar.

But something was different this season; whether it was the choice of their 'lucky' new red strip, the gelling of a group of

talented individuals under the leadership of the strong-willed, level-headed Malky Mackay, or simply the fact that this was their year, Cardiff looked every inch the dominant force in a league renowned for its unpredictability.

Top of the table since November, the Bluebirds deserve the plaudits being handed to them, but as Mackay will well know, if getting to the promised land of the Premier League is hard, then staying there is even harder.

With promotion being worth an amazing £100million (not all in one go admittedly) and owner Vincent Tan reportedly planning to invest £25million into new players, the Bluebirds have every opportunity to establish themselves as a Premier League team.

They could do worse than look to their neighbours up the road for guidance in how to do that. Since Swansea's promotion, the club have slowly built the foundations for further suc-

cess, and, with European football heading to the Liberty Stadium next season, and the nucleus of a talented squad overseen by a promising manager, the Swans are in a position even the most die-hard Cardiff fan would relish being in within the near future.

Another leaf that could be taken from their book is the development of local talent, with the current Cardiff squad only being graced by one Welshman. The academy that produced Adam Matthews, Joe Ledley, Darcy Blake and Aaron Ramsey appears to have run dry of late, and Cardiff must use this promotion stepping stone to develop their young Welsh talent, as well as bringing in the established players who will hopefully ensure a long run in the top flight.

Next season promises to be an eventful one, with two Welsh clubs in the Premier League hopefully battling it out to see who is the top dog in south Wales rather than battling the drop – but for Cardiff City the hard work starts now.

Injuries mar impressive win for Bridgend Athletic

B R I D G E N D
A T H L E T I C
secured a bonus point and double over Blackwood with an excellent 38-17 win.

However, the win came at a heavy price with two of their most influential backs suffering bad injuries as centre Tom Morgan suffered a broken femur and full back James Olds a broken bone in his hand.

Blackwood came into the game having won seven out of eight of their last fixtures. The Athletic were also in form and the bonus point win made it 14 points in seven days with a midweek bonus point win over Pontypool and last Saturday's excellent away win at another former giant club Newbridge.

The game started at a furious pace. Within two minutes Athletic No 8 Sean Derrick picked up from a five metre scrum and bulldozed his way inside the 22. Prop Rod

over the try line for his sixth try of the season; outside half Steve Lewis converted from the touchline.

Blackwood attacked from the restart and an excellent back line move saw wing Rhodri Usher cross wide out for an unconverted try. Five minutes later Lewis made it 10-5 with a 20-12 interval lead.

It was groundhog day at the start of the second half with both sides crossing the whitewash in the first four minutes. This time Blackwood scored first when a missed tackle on halfway led to a try for full back Nathan Gittins.

The Athletic responded when from a five metre scrum Derrick picked up and fed Lewis who handed on to Tom Morgan. Morgan made a break and put replacement full back Lawrence Howley over in the corner for a try with his first touch of the ball. Lewis' touchline conversion extended the lead to 25-17.

The Athletic were now in the ascendancy. Prop Rod Apsee and flankers Ben Thomas and Sean Williams were particularly visible in the pack, ably supported by captain Simon Mustoe, Huw Morris and locks Jamie Doherty and Griff Davies.

Thomas was lively at scrum half, while Lewis turned in a man of the match performance orchestrating the back division with Morgan and youth team centre Chris Price and influential wings, Kyle Dobbins and Nick Hinton, often seen crashing through on inside moves through the centre. The pressure told as Blackwood conceded penalties and Lewis was deadly on the day, extending the lead to 31-17 with two further penalties.

On the hour Morgan ran out of his own 22 and

Apsee carried on the looked heading for the move and when tackled on the try line fellow prop Huw Morris was on hand to pick up and dive over; Lewis converted to give the Athletic a 20-12 interval lead.

The game was delayed 20 minutes as the physios considered it unwise to move him. Eventually both sides agreed to complete the game on the adjacent 2nd XV pitch.

The Athletic were forced into a reshuffle; No 8 Sean Derrick went into the centre, hooker Mustoe went to blindside flanker, and Callum McCloud came on as open side; Nathan Holman came on to hook and Matt Muir came on at prop.

Despite the changes the Athletic were looking the better side. However with five minutes remaining flanker McCloud was adjudged to have handled at a ruck, and received a yellow card. Blackwood opted for a five metre scrum hoping for a pushover try.

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The Athletic took a chance by putting this Saturday following a midweek home fixture with Tata Steel, before completing a successful inaugural championship campaign at Bonymaen the following Saturday.

The Athletic would like to thank Jerome Matthias of Center Great for sponsoring the fixture.

AB



Tom Morgan takes on three defenders.
PICTURE BY GLENNSPORTS

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Bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, April 17: First John Beard and Tony Haworth, second Norma and David Newman, third Geoff Barnes and Dave Barwood.

Thursday, April 18: First Rob Forman and Jeff Barnett, with Dave Lee and Stuart Francis in second place.

Friday, April 19: First Mary Moore and Jane Brook, second Barrie Jenkins and Eleanor Jones, third Steve Newman and Bill Turner.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm – to which all bridge players are welcome – on Thursdays, from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

For further information contact Steve Burgoynes on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Jones, third Steve Newman and Bill Turner.

DN

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